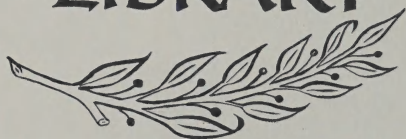


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HISTORY  
OF  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY  
MISSOURI



Warren Eastman Hearnes, Governor of Missouri from 1964-1972.



HISTORY  
OF  
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY  
MISSOURI  
BEGINNING  
THROUGH 1972

By  
Betty F. Powell

*BNL Library Service*  
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This book is dedicated to my  
husband, Rowe, and to our  
children, Betty Jane, Ronald,  
and Judith.



## PREFACE

No history of Mississippi County has been written since Goodspeed and Douglass included valuable information in their histories of the area known as Southeast Missouri.

The author, over a period of years, has been collecting historical items for what was to be a very modest booklet. The project was so fascinating and so rewarding there came a time when this no longer seemed adequate and the idea of a book began to take form.

Every available source was investigated and what seemed at times an insurmountable task was reluctantly but finally brought to completion.

The author made every effort to check names, dates, and information for accuracy but it would be presumptuous to assume that no errors have occurred.

It would be impossible to list all those who gave help and encouragement but there are some who deserve special thanks; Inez Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. J. Abner Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bihr, Mrs. Tom Bird, Ira Brewer, R. Q. Brown, E. Jere Deal, Ruth Ellen Heggie, Eleanor Hequembourg, Dr. Robert Hill, Ellis Howlett, Frank Johnson, Ben Bird Moore, Mary F. Moore, Paul Handy Moore, Avis Muench, Darron Noisworthy, Mrs. David Smith, Buford Sutherland, Russell Sutherland, Dorothy Thompson, Millie Wallhausen, and Robert Watt.

The author is indebted to the following people who supplied family histories: Dr. Geneva Drinkwater, Karl Clarkson, Melvin Crenshaw, Betty Darnell, Betty Norman, and Ruth Ellen Heggie.

Many people kindly took time to help with information on clubs and organizations.

A very special thanks goes to the city and county employees who helped dig out old minute books, to Art Wallhausen, Jr. for his very fine editing of most of the material and help in collecting many of the pictures, and to Wanda Berry who did more than the typing of the manuscript.

And finally, the author is deeply grateful to the Mississippi County Library Board whose understanding and approval made it all possible.

B. F. P.

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## Chapter I

### ORIGIN OF NAMES

In all the history of our country, settlers have first come to make their homes along the river valleys. The Mississippi Valley was no exception to that rule. In this valley have been mirrored the varied periods in the history of the country—the struggles with the Indians; the question of English, Spanish or French supremacy; United States ownership and the movement of settlers from the East; the slavery question; the whole problem of reconstruction; the migration from foreign countries. And in the center of this valley, participating in the varied phases of this history, lies the present State of Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

#### *State of Missouri*

When French explorers traveled the new and amazing country of the Mississippi Valley, they recorded a name for the great river that crosses the present State of Missouri, a river that more than a century later gave its name to the land now comprising the State itself.<sup>2</sup>

Yet oddly enough the name that Missouri bears today, gained largely through the location of a few Indian villages on the river in Central Missouri and the notations and maps of a French priest, has for over two centuries been associated with the meaning of another word.<sup>3</sup>

The most powerful and distinctive tribe of Indians in the region, the Osages, gave their name only to a tributary of the great river, and in the future to a county. The smaller tribe of the Missouris, however, had their name perpetuated in a great river and state.<sup>4</sup>

The word Missouri belongs to the Illinois dialect of the Algonquin Indian language and in the 1800's was thought to mean "muddy water". After the middle of the nineteenth century it came to be almost a tradition that the Missouri River was also known as the "Big Muddy".<sup>5</sup>

It was not until the turn of the twentieth century that the Brooklyn "Eagle" first traced the development and meaning of Indian syllables in the word Missouri to show that the name meant "wooden canoe people" or "people who use wooden canoes". An article from the Smithsonian Institution in 1937 interpreted Missouri to mean "he of the big canoe".<sup>6</sup>

Missouri, the State, has acquired almost more than her share of nicknames. The one most commonly accepted and the one most people know is the "Show Me State". Exactly where or when the phrase, "I'm from Missouri: you'll have to show me",



first originated no one knows. The story has been credited to various Rocky Mountain mining camp episodes and to a Civil War incident. It was in the 1890's that the saying gained prominence, however.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Tywappity Bottoms*

The last part of the name may contain Shawnee wapiti, "elk", literally "white rump". Zewapeta probably means the same as Tywappity.<sup>8</sup>

#### *Mississippi County*

Called by DeSoto, Rio Grande Del Espiriter Santo, the Grand River of the Holy Spirit; French Jesuit explorers called it Riviere de St. Louis; Marquette gave it the name of "Riviere de la Conception", in fulfillment of a vow he made to the Virgin Mary if he succeeded in finding the great river; La Salle baptized it "Riviere de Colbert". (Colbert was a French statesman of 1682). The Algonquin names of the river were "Missi", great, and "Seepee", river—"Great River". As the county borders on the river, it was named for it.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Towns of Mississippi County*

Charleston, county seat of Mississippi County, according to *Missouri and Missourians*, was derived from the Spanish "Carlos Prairie", applied to the surrounding country, although the American settlers knew this region as Mathew's Prairie or Saint Charles Prairie. Silas S. Smith wrote that around 1836 Charleston was called "Indian Town" because the Indians, probably of the Cherokee and Choctaw tribes, according to Absalom McElmurry had a village in a grove of large oaks where the Rolwing-Moxley elevator later was erected. Mrs. Clyde Swank recalls from her childhood that all their ponies were named Cherokee because they were usually bought from the Indians.

There is a tradition that the town was called Charleston by Joseph Moore in honor of his brother, Charles, who came from Maryland and located in the town at the invitation of Joseph Moore, who offered as an inducement that he would so name the town.<sup>10</sup> Surviving members of the family claim this to be the true version.

Anniston, according to a Missouri Historical Review article, was named for the county seat of Calhoun County, Alabama.<sup>11</sup> John L. Vaughn in his recollections claims that it was named Anniston by J. B. Smith, the postmaster, after his daughter, Annis.

Bertrand was named for a capitalist interested in the railroad passing through the place.<sup>12</sup>

Byrd Point was named for Abraham Byrd according to an article in a Missouri Historical Review.<sup>13</sup> Others claim it was named Bird's Point for Abraham Bird.

Belmont was named for August Belmont, a capitalist of New York.<sup>14</sup>

Buckeye was named for the five-leaved variety of the horse chestnut family, commonly called the Ohio Buckeye.<sup>15</sup>

Crosno was named for F. M. Crosno, the first postmaster and merchant at the time the post office was established.<sup>16</sup>

Hibbard was named for a railroad employee and was later named East Prairie by the United States Post Office Department.

Medley's Landing was named by John Chrisostom Medley.

Wyatt was named for William Wyatt who was postmaster and a merchant at the time it was laid out. It had originally been called Smithton for Captain Isaac N. Smith who was a captain in the Confederate Army and who owned the land on which Wyatt is now located.<sup>17</sup>

## Chapter II

### INDIAN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Carl and Eleanor Chapman wrote, "In 1540 Herando de Soto penetrated to the Arkansas River and perhaps well into southeastern Missouri. It may never be known how much De Soto and his cruel army affected the Indians living in what is now Arkansas and Southern Missouri, but it seems probable that part of the rapid decline of the townspeople after De Soto's appearance in A. D. 1540 can be laid indirectly, if not directly, at his feet".

At different times Missouri was inhabited by the Osages, Missouris, Iowas, Sacs and Foxes, Kickapoos, Shawnees, and Delawares. In the early part of the eighteenth century the Osages had possession of all of Southwest Missouri, and were, no doubt, the most powerful tribe in Missouri. Their parties would go on expeditions as far as the Great Lakes.<sup>1</sup> Billon's *Annals of St. Louis* informs us that there were estimated in 1810 to be about twenty thousand Indians in Missouri.<sup>2</sup>

Under the pressure of a constantly advancing white immigration, the Indian tribes which had originally occupied the Illinois country, or had been forced into it from the eastward, migrated west of the Mississippi River. Up to 1825 twenty-one tribes, numbering more than thirty thousand people, had come from the north and east and crossed the Mississippi River at and near St. Louis. A further migration from the east took place about 1833 and among the migrating tribes during these periods were the Delawares, Pottawottomies, Wyandottes, Ottawas, Peorias, and remnants of others, and these were gradually pushed farther westward by the advancing whites.<sup>3</sup>

When De Soto came to Southeast Missouri he found living within its borders at least three tribes of Indians. In the neighborhood of New Madrid were the Casquins, believed to be identical with the Kaskaskias found in Illinois. They belonged to the Algonquin group. The Capahas were living in the Cape Girardeau area and they belonged to the Siouan group. The third group found by De Soto were the Osages, who at that time lived in the great bend of the Missouri River, but whose hunting ground extended east to the Mississippi River and south to the Arkansas River.<sup>4</sup>

Two other tribes settled within the limits of Southeast Missouri in considerable number and they came into closer relations with the people and were more important in its early history. These were the Delawares and the Shawnees, both of whom are of the Algonquin group and who had settlements in



Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Dunklin, and New Madrid counties.<sup>5</sup>

It seems that none of these had permanent settlements within the boundaries of Mississippi County but there are many traces left of an aborigine society called the Mound Builder. These mounds have been found in many places in Missouri including the southeastern part of the state.<sup>6</sup>

The Chapmans made no attempt to define the mound builders but merely stated, "Mounds and other earthworks of large size are fairly characteristic structures in the lowland areas in southeastern Missouri. Many of the mounds are a truncated pyramid in shape and were used as the base for a chief's house or a ceremonial structure. Groups of mounds are sometimes bordered by ditches and embankments. The embankments had large wooden palisades on top of them to protect the village from attack".

Brackenridge, who examined the antiquities of the west in 1817, speaking of the mounds in the Mississippi Valley, said, "I have sometimes been induced to think, that, at the period when they were constructed, there was a population here as numerous as that which once aminated the borders of the Nile or Euphrates, or of Mexico. I am perfectly satisfied that cities similar to those of ancient Mexico, of several hundred thousand souls, have existed in this country".

St. Louis was originally known as the "Mound City" because of the extent and variety of the curious monuments found there, and although these, as well as numbers of others scattered over various parts of the State, have been defaced or entirely obliterated, Missouri still presents an unusually fruitful field of investigation to the archaeologist. This is particularly true of the southeastern counties.<sup>7</sup>

The mounds found in Missouri are mainly of three types: conical, pyramid, or effigy shaped, built of earth or earth and stone; and were used as tombs, temples, fortifications, and houses, while others have no apparent use. Many of them contain bones of their dead, encased in square stone cists and covered with dirt.<sup>8</sup>

A. J. Conant who divided the mounds of Missouri into four general classes; burial mounds, caves or artificial caverns, sacrificial or temple mounds and garden mounds and miscellaneous works, states that all the evidence which has so far been collected tends to show:<sup>9</sup> "1. That the mound-builders had an organized automatic government, in which the individual was merged in the state, and thus their rulers could undertake and complete the great works, the remains of which are found in this age. 2. The mound-builders were a laborious people. Nothing but the united labor of many thousands of men could accomplish such great works as have survived the leveling influence of time through thousands of years. 3. The mound-builders were not nomads, but had fixed habitation. 4. They

were numerous and gregarious, dwelling in populous cities, as attested by the grouping of the mounds. 5. The mound-builders were acquainted with many of the practical arts of civilized life. They smelted copper, wrought stone, molded clay into useful forms, built houses, reared mounds, which, like those of Otolum, Uxmal, Palenque, and San Juan Tectihuacan, were no doubt temple-crowned in the distant past. They manufactured salt, made cloth, and had vessels fitted for many uses. They cultivated the soil, raised corn, melons, pumpkins and squashes, and subsisted in a large degree on the fruits of the earth."

The size of the mounds in Missouri varies from the largest, found in Pemiscot County, which was 400 feet long, 250 feet wide, and 35 feet high at its highest point, to small ones a few feet high. The school of thought which holds that the mounds were made by early Indians, points to the fact that the Indian has been known to build mounds as bases for his dwelling and burial places.<sup>10</sup>

Mississippi County is situated near the center of that region which Foster and other archaeologists believed to be the center of that vast empire, once composed of a people long since extinct. Every indication is that the banks of the Mississippi River, from St. Louis, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee, were thickly inhabited by the race of pre-historic men, known as the Mound Builders. It was on these shores that they constructed their loftiest mounds, made their most exquisite pottery, and built their widest cemeteries.<sup>12</sup>

Mississippi County was once rich in these prehistoric remains: which consisted of earthen mounds, skeletons, pottery, images, precious stones, and stone implements. There appears to have been some system in the construction of the mounds in this county. There are three chains—the first commencing in Scott County and running nearly south to New Madrid County, the other two commencing in the northern and central portions of the county and running in a southerly direction.<sup>12</sup>

Reavis in 1878 described his impression of the mounds, "These mounds are invariably situated on the banks of some body of water, and are of various sizes, ranging from three feet to twenty in height. There are near (sic) one thousand of them in Mississippi County. Twenty-five miles south of Charleston, back of Wolf Island, on the Beckwith farm, is situated one of the most remarkable mounds erected by these strange people. It is about 40 feet high, 200 feet square at the base, and 150 feet square at the top. On the east is a bayou, supposed to have once been the bed of the Mississippi River, while the other three sides are surrounded by a canal, which was deep enough and wide enough to float an ordinary steamboat. On the top of the mound are eleven smaller ones, there being one in the center, the others on the edges. No exploration has been made, except some incidental digging. The owner of the land upon which it is situated has con-

scientious convictions against any disturbance of the sanctity of the graves of any people, whether ancient or modern."

W. B. Potter in 1880 reported that the most extensive remains of the Mound Builders thus far discovered in Missouri were to be found in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, in a low alluvial tract known generally as the "Swamp Region", which covers an area of about four thousand square miles and includes the counties of New Madrid, Scott, Mississippi, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Stoddard, and portions of Cape Girardeau, Butler and Ripley.<sup>13</sup>

He also wrote, "In the early part of the present century and especially during the years 1811 and 1812, this swamp region was visited by a series of earthquakes, and striking evidence of their action are still to be seen in many places. Well-marked traces of old landslips and crevasses are frequently to be met with along the borders of the 'ridges'; also large sink holes and occasionally, circular areas of barren quicksands showing where sand and water had been forced up from below through rents in the yielding alluvial soil. So far as observed, there are no evidences of similar disturbances having taken place, previous to the construction of any of the works of the 'Mound Builders' in this region."<sup>14</sup>

Dr. Edward Evers reporting at the same time concluded, "The only inferences which our study of the ancient pottery of the Mound Builders warrant are: that, while it teaches us nothing as to the identity of the people who produced it or of their relation to others, and while it gives us no information of their religious sentiments or their secular customs, beyond the fact that they followed the universal custom of burying objects of art of value with their dead, it does teach us, that these early inhabitants had long since emerged from a condition of barbarity and had attained a degree of civilization and culture, which, if acquired by the slow process which we observe in historic races, will date their existence back centuries before the discovery of this continent".<sup>15</sup>

Historians and archaeologists are unable to agree on the origin of the Mound Builder and in an article taken from a State Historical Society publication and reprinted in the Enterprise-Courier 75th Anniversary Edition of 1949, the headline reads, "THE \$64 QUESTION - WHO WERE THE MISSOURI MOUND BUILDERS".

The article continues, "Buried deep in the rich Missouri earth is a secret which men may never discover, for the earth holds her own counsel. From the earth man has taken a vestige of a culture — human bones bleached white by sun and time, pottery vessels rich in color and design, skillfully made axes and arrow heads, figurines both grotesque and beautiful, some with distinctly European features - taken from the remains of the Missouri mound builders."



"There is hardly a section of the state which does not have some mounds, silent memorials to a forgotten race - or are they? For that is the question that teases historians and archaeologists today. Who were the mound builders? Some say that they were merely the ancestors of the Indians of Missouri. Others hold that the mound builders had a higher civilization than the red man - that they were a race that flourished and then were gone. So it remains a moot question."

Goodspeed in 1888 wrote, "The Mound-Builders reaching back into an antiquity so remote as to have left behind no vestige of tradition, present themselves to the archaeologist as a half-civilized people who once occupied Missouri and various other parts of the country. At first the mounds were supposed to be of Indian origin, but careful examination has revealed the fact that despite several adverse theories - they must have been built by a people as distinct from the North American Indian as were the later people of Central America. Upon making excavations in these mounds, human skeletons were found with skulls differing from those of the Indians, together with pottery and various ornaments and utensils, showing considerable mechanical skill. From the comparatively nude state of the arts among them, however, it has been inferred that the time of their migration to this country, if indeed they did migrate, was very remote."

G. C. Broadhead wrote, "The Toltecs of Mexico have legends that they were driven away from a country inhabited by them, away to the northeast, hundreds of years ago."<sup>16</sup>

The *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, published in 1901 again raised the question of the origin of the Mound Builders. "There can be no rational doubt that the mound-builders were very different in their habits and manners of life from the Indians of Historic times. The latter were nomads; the former dwelt in towns and cities, had temples, fortifications, and permanent structures of great extent. The Pueblo Indians of New Mexico approach to what we may conceive to have been the habits of this race, but it cannot be determined, and perhaps never will, that these Indians are the descendents of the prehistoric race which, at a very remote period peopled the Mississippi Valley from the Rocky Mountains to the Alleghenies, and from Lake Superior to the Gulf."

Various writers have described the mounds and the remains found in them. Reavis wrote, "A majority of these mounds seem to have been built for burial places of the dead, though some, notably the large one on the Beckwith farm, were evidently used as fortifications. In some instances many hundred were buried in a single mound, and from the charred pieces of human bones that are sometimes found, it would appear that cremation was sometimes practiced. The interments were generally regular in order."

The mounds and other ancient earth-works were far more

abundant than is generally supposed. While some were quite large, the greater part of them were small and inconspicuous. Along nearly all the water courses, that were large enough to be navigated by a canoe, the mounds were almost invariably found.<sup>17</sup>

In a mound a few miles east of Charleston, from which many pieces of pottery have been taken, many fragments of skeletons were discovered, which evidence almost as much care as was bestowed on the bodies of the ancient Egyptians. The bodies were placed in a reclining position, with the faces turned to the East. Over them was spread a kind of plaster about an inch and a half thick. This was made to conform in a certain degree to the shape of the bodies, and was baked hard with fire. Next to the plaster was a layer of white sand, then another layer of common clay, and then ordinary earth. In another mound in the county there were found some five hundred skeletons, lying in a circle with the heads to the center. The bodies were frequently placed one upon another in regular layers.<sup>18</sup>

Their axes were of stone, their raiment consisted of the bark of trees interwoven with feathers, and their military works were such as a people would erect who had just passed to the pastoral state of society from that dependent upon hunting and fishing. They were, no doubt, idolaters, and it has been conjectured that the sun was the object of their adoration. The mounds were generally built in a place affording a view of the rising sun; when enclosed in walls their gateways were toward the east. The caves in which their dead were occasionally buried always opened in the same direction and when bodies were buried in graves, as was frequently the case, they were laid in a direction east and west. And finally, medals have been found representing the sun and its rays of light.<sup>19</sup>

H. H. Blackstone, a resident of Charleston in 1878, explored a mound in which he found hundreds of fragmentary skeletons placed in every conceivable shape and attitude as if the bodies had been thrown in promiscuously, like burying the dead after a great battle. No complete skeletons have been found; the bones of the fingers, toes, and ribs are always missing. In most instances the bones crumbled to dust as soon as exposed to the atmosphere, but many fine specimens have been preserved and give a good conception of these ancient dwellers. They were not of all extraordinary stature, though there were individuals among them that might be properly called giants.<sup>20</sup>

Blackstone also discovered a skeleton close to which lay three undressed onyx stones, two pieces of copper, octagon in shape, and two small flint drills, about the size of a wheat straw, and not more than an inch and a quarter long. In a mound near Wolf Island he found a topaz, cut in the shape of an owl.<sup>21</sup>

Dr. Golder, another citizen of Charleston around the same time, declared that he had seen a skull that measured over thirty

inches in circumference, and that he saw a tibia or thigh bone that would reach from the hip of an ordinary man to the ground. The skull bones were sometimes nearly an inch thick, while the bones of other portions of the body were equally massive. Many teeth were found in a perfect state of preservation, some of them of enormous size. Judging from this and from the absence of the ordinary frontal development of the crania, he was led to suppose that the mound-builders were, "a very savage and degraded race of people, though they possessed art unknown to the Indians that followed them."

Pieces of pottery and other relics were generally found around the head of a skeleton. Sometimes nothing was found, and then again dozens of pieces. The quantity of relics is supposed to have been regulated by the wealth of the deceased individual. Some of the pieces are handsome while others are extremely ill-shaped. On almost everything is an image of something; sometimes an eagle, a bear, a man, a woman, a fish, or a dog.<sup>22</sup>

As early as 1855 Dr. Golder had a fine collection but it was destroyed during the Civil War. One of the items in his collection was a small canoe cut out of marble, which was discovered in the lower end of Mississippi County. He presented to L. U. Reavis, at the time of his visit to the county, a carved head.<sup>23</sup> Reavis considered it, "one of the most perfect faces yet discovered among the remains of the mound-builders. The nose has an aquiline turn, the cheekbones high and prominent, the head wide at the base, and sloping rapidly backwards, while from the center of the crown springs a beautifully turned crest or plume. It bears strong resemblance to the Peruvian and Mexican Aztec type, and was undoubtedly made with great care, and intended to represent a chief or a king."

In 1873 Major J. H. Guthrie, for some years the Representative of Mississippi County in the Missouri Legislature, found some fine specimens of pottery, and the following year he presented them to Thomas Allen, president of the Iron Mountain Railroad. Allen took them to the Centennial of 1876, and there called the attention of archaeologists to the subject, and hundreds of letters, making inquiries and asking for specimens, were received by citizens of the county. Thorough explorations began and the sale of pottery and specimens became quite a business.<sup>24</sup>

The principal explorers at that time were H. H. Blackstone and Adam Hughes, both of Charleston. They covered the whole county, and while they made no profession of scientific attainments, they had a thorough knowledge of the character and habits of the mound-builders, so far as that kind of information was attainable from scattered relics. They both handled thousands of pieces and they received orders from all over the world for their strange goods. Hughes discovered, and had in his



possession, some pieces of pottery which would do honor to the skilled hands of modern artisans. It was his opinion that one or two pieces in his collection must have been made by some kind of machinery, so regular was the shape and so smooth the surface.<sup>25</sup>

An advertisement in the local newspaper of August 2, 1879, lists two other dealers in the artifacts of the mound builders.

Rouse & La Montague  
dealers in

All kinds of Mound relics  
Charleston, Mo.

Will pay the highest cash for this class of goods and will ship specimens in any quantity to any part of the world. A large supply of relics always on hand. A. B. Rouse can at all times be found at the Empire Livery Stable and Lou La Montague at C & L's Saloon.

The twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 183, Washington, 1894 reports, "In 1879 and 1880 the people in the neighborhood of Charleston, Missouri, discovered that the pottery in which the mounds of this region seem to have been unusually rich had a considerable commercial value. A regular mining fever at once broke out and spread so rapidly that in some instances as many as twenty-five or thirty men, women, and children could be seen digging for pottery in one field at the same time."

Fowke reported, "The prospectors proceeded systematically; they used long steel probing rods with which they tested almost every foot of a field they wished to explore. There are no stones, scarcely a pebble, in this alluvial soil; consequently when the rod met with an obstacle the searcher could be almost certain it was an implement, a piece of pottery, or other artificial object. In this way they soon learned in what sort of situation or amid what sort of surroundings a village site and its associated cemetery were likely to be found; and when one was discovered they usually exhausted its possibilities before going elsewhere. Further, a series of fruitless excavations taught them that mounds made of earth so hard the probe would not readily penetrate it would almost certainly be destitute of contents, or, if otherwise, that articles of pottery would be broken by pressure. So, in time, the prospectors became quite expert in selecting localities where digging would 'pay', and found aboriginal vessels literally by the carload; and they inspected the country so carefully that only by chance is a source of fresh supply discovered."

This situation was deplored by Frank Hilder around 1881 when he wrote, "Neither the State of Missouri, nor the city of St. Louis, has ever expended a single dollar in preserving the antiquities of the State, or even in forming a catalogue or history of

them (relics). What little has been done, has been the work of a few private individuals, and by the feeble and intermittent efforts of scientific societies, whose action is impeded by want of funds necessary to attempt anything better."<sup>26</sup>

"While this condition of apathy exists among our citizens, speculators and dealers, principally from Eastern cities, are sending their agents among the farmers to offer them payment for every specimen they can obtain. The consequence is, that relics, many of them invaluable for the purpose of study, are packed in barrels and sent off as merchandise, or to enrich the museums of Europe; and what is worse, great numbers of interesting earthen monuments are destroyed, for the mere purpose of obtaining such articles of pottery and other relics as they may contain, thus forever rendering it impossible to examine, describe, or record them."<sup>27</sup>

The principal finds were almost invariably made on the sites of villages, generally in the immediate vicinity of mounds, though often several hundred yards from the nearest one. Usually one, sometimes two pots were found with a skeleton. Occasionally there was a burial mound in which many bodies had been interred. In one the first intimation that it might yield anything was the uncovering of pottery fragments in plowing. This was explored by Thomas Beckwith, who found the base to be four feet lower than the surrounding level. Whether this had been a burial pit filled and covered, or whether the field had been built up to that extent by deposits after the mound was made, he was unable to say; but skeletons and pottery were found everywhere from top to bottom, the lowest of them in standing or soil water. Exactly three hundred pots were saved, including practically every size, shape, style, and degree of finish found in the region. There were also two human effigies carved in sandstone.<sup>28</sup>

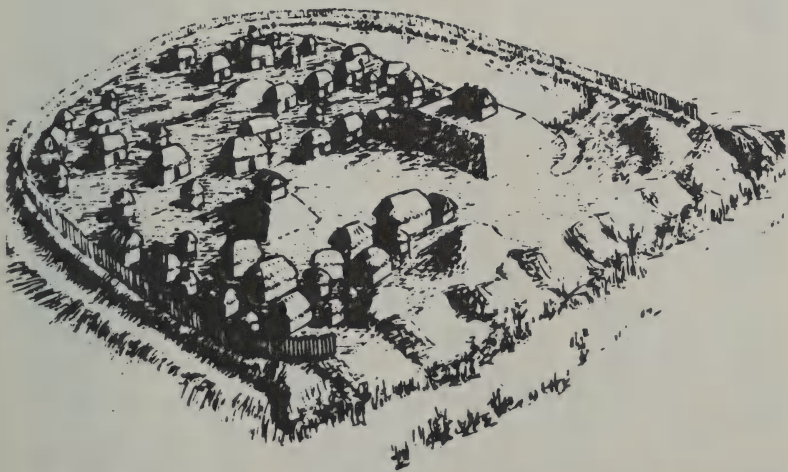
Though fine specimens were occasionally found in them, the larger mounds as a rule contained very little; and it would seem from the descriptions of the position and manner in which skeletons or relics were placed, that they were mostly deposited in the course of uprearing a structure which was primarily intended for some purpose other than that of sepulchre.<sup>29</sup>

Fowlkes felt that, "There are real mortuary mounds from which pottery is procured in great or less amounts, but compared with the total number these are few. Probably ninety per cent, or even more, of mounds in the territory comprising and adjacent to the 'Sunk Lands' were erected with some end in view which did not include either funeral rites or the concealment of relics."

Thomas Beckwith, whose collection is famous, was thirty years or longer in getting it together. His collection is now in the Museum of the Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Douglass wrote, "Perhaps the largest collection of Indian relics in Southeast Missouri, if not in the en-



Part of the Thomas Beckwith collection of Indian artifacts now housed at Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



A DRAWING of how the reconstructed "Beckwith's Fort" in Mississippi County, now called Towosahgy State Park, will look when completed.



tire state, is that owned by Mr. Beckwith and comprises about ten thousand different pieces, some of them of the finest workmanship and of the greatest value. Practically all of these were found in Mississippi County and by far the larger number on Mr. Beckwith's own farm."

Beckwith in his book, *The Indian or Mound Builder*, published in 1911 describes the mounds that he studied, "The earliest built mounds were made of the clay strata and the later on the higher lands of black sand and the latest in the river bottoms of the black clay and sandy loam. They were built mostly at the joining of the high and low lands where wood and water were at hand. The mounds of Mississippi County were conical and quadrangular. The conical is the form of the oldest mounds, as shown by there being, in most cases, no trace of where the dirt came from that built the mound, while near the quadrangular mounds are still large cavities or pits in close proximity. One of the largest in the county seems not to have been completed."

"Some of the burial mounds are as high as ten feet, conical in shape, with a broad base. One of the finest mounds I excavated was not more than six inches or a foot in height. The pottery was mostly from two and a half to three feet in depth, yet some of it was so near the surface that it was turned out by the plow. I took out of that mound about three hundred vessels. The mound was composed of a black sandy, loamy soil".

Louis Houck who visited the area and talked to Beckwith wrote, "In almost every section of Missouri silent memorials of a pre-historic people - the so-called mound-builders - are found. This history of the state manifestly would be incomplete without, at least, an attempt to record where this pre-historic race, or it may be different races dwelling in the land at different times or epochs, apparently had their habitat. Nor will it digress too far to make some observations in a general way, on the character of such remains and relics as have been discovered and have escaped the wreck and storm of ages, the more ruthless plowshare, and the ignorance of destroying man. My main object, however, has been to accurately and definitely locate every mound and settlement of these pre-historic denizens of the state, and to that end every county has been visited during the last two years, at my instance, by Mr. Lewis M. Bean and Mr. D. L. Hoffman. It is not asserted that they found every existing mound, or discovered every pre-historic settlement, but it is reasonably certain that all the most conspicuous and remarkable mounds have been by them definitely located. Of course it is out of the question to describe the 28,000 mounds, large and small, which have now been definitely located."

"One remarkable discovery made by Mr. Thomas Beckwith, who has devoted many years to the careful and intelligent exploration of the mounds of Mississippi County, would seem to tend to support the contention that the more ancient

mound-builders of the Mississippi valley, at least, belonged to the Nahuatl race of Mexico. It should be observed that in making his explorations Mr. Beckwith always proceeds with the greatest circumspection, not, like so many others, hastily digging and burrowing into mounds, looking only for perfect pottery-ware, carelessly overlooking and throwing everything else away; on the contrary, nothing is too small for his notice, and it is his invariable practice to gather up and preserve every fragment, small and insignificant though it may appear. The exploration of the mound merely does not always satisfy him. In some instances where the surrounding country seems to warrant it, he also explores the soil for several feet below the surface at present surrounding the mound. In making such sub-surface explorations Mr. Beckwith, at a depth of three feet below the present surface, in a number of instances, found pottery balls imbedded in the clay, near mounds explored by him. He has collected in this way perhaps half a bushel of such pottery balls of various forms, some ovoids, others round, about the size of a walnut. Such pottery balls of various shapes were in use as slingstones among the Charrus of South America. The Marquis de Nadaillac says that the Chichimecs, who were of the Nahuatl race, in their wars used bows and arrows and 'slings with which they flung little pottery balls which caused dangerous wounds'. Among the Mayas of Yucatan slings were also extensively used. But as an offensive weapon it was unknown among the North American Indians."

"Without expressing an opinion on a subject requiring so much more knowledge than I possess, this, however, can be said, that it would be a mistake to suppose that the pre-historic remains found even in the same section or region in this state or elsewhere in the Mississippi valley must necessarily have originated at the same time or from the same tribe or race. From the mounds and ceramic remains in this section it is said that a connection with Mexico is clearly apparant. Nor need this surprise us when we know that within twenty days, or less, a journey could be made on foot from the valley of Onahuac to the valley of the Mississippi."

"In American archeology this one fact has been slowly established, in spite of the neglect of this interesting field, that in the potter's art the primitive inhabitants of the middle Mississippi valley were far in advance of the ancient potters of the Pueblos of New Mexico and Arizona as to the variety and refinement of the form and work of their wares. From these remains it is also evident that the prehistoric inhabitants of this state, at least, were far in advance in civilization of any of the historic tribes which first came in contact with the white man."

After describing some of the pottery which had been found, Houck then wrote, "Returning now to my simple purpose to enumerate the most conspicuous monuments of the mound-

builders in Missouri, it may be observed that the St. Francois basin at one time appears to have been the center of the greatest prehistoric population”.

In his listing of the mounds found in these counties, his description of those found in Mississippi County is as follows: “The most conspicuous mound in Mississippi county is located on the Beckwith farm in section 29, township 24 north, of range 17 east, and forms a truncated pyramid. When Mr. Beckwith first knew this mound it was covered with heavy timber, as well as the surrounding country. It has not been explored and no relics have been found thus far; but on the top, scattered all over the ground, about five feet in depth, Mr. Beckwith has found burned clay, as if the debris of an old fire-bed had been taken here, this burned clay apparently having been mixed with straw. Fifty yards southeast from this mound there is another seven or eight feet high, also truncated. All around these, extending over three or four hundred acres, evidences of an extensive prehistoric settlement exist, many relics having been found. A copper awl, nearly square in form, now in the possession of Mr. Beckwith, was unearthed near one of these mounds.”

“Three miles east of Charleston, a lump of native copper was found in the so-called ‘Canada mound’, undoubtedly brought there from a long distance, also a sea conch shell, which seems to have been used as an ornament. But the most important discovery here was a piece of obsidian from which flakes had been cut, clearly showing that the mound-builders of Mississippi County had trade relations at least with Cerro Gordo, Mexico, the nearest place to the mouth of the Ohio where this volcanic product is found. The Pin-Hook ridge mounds, Beckwith’s fort, and Baker’s mound are fully described in the 12th Report of the Bureau of Ethnology and therefore are not more particularly noticed here.”

A map and footnote in Houck’s book lists numerous other mounds in Mississippi County.

Gerald Fowke in his report of 1910 listed localities in the county possibly worth examining: 1. On the farm of J. H. Drew, eight miles south of East Prairie, on north side of Upton Slough. 2. Much pottery has been found at the McFadden farm, two miles up the river from Belmont, and on the Hudson farm next above McFadden’s. 3. Many relics have been found around the base of a large mound at Traverse, a mile south of Crosno. 4. Five to six miles west of Belmont is Sassafras ridge, where many specimens have been discovered. 5. On Hoecake ridge, a mile west from Sassafras ridge, are mounds on Tom Quick’s land. 6. There are mounds, and numerous specimens have been found, on Pinhook ridge, two and one half miles south of Sassafras ridge, and on the Farrin farm, at the old “Tarr store”, a mile north of Wolf Island post office.

During the last half of the 19th century and the early part of

this century, observations and research relating to the prehistory of Southeast Missouri was confined to the exploration of mounds and cemeteries in the fortified village sites. Most of these were in the Cairo Lowland or on Sikeston Ridge. Published accounts of these explorations were brief and concentrated on the description of the earthworks and upon pottery vessels found with burials.<sup>30</sup>

W. H. Holmes and Cyrus Thomas from around 1886 to 1903 studied and wrote about the Baytown pottery and their works were to remain the final word for nearly forty years. The next important survey was done at the Crosno site under the direction of James B. Griffin.<sup>31</sup>

In 1945 Armer Fletcher reported a find of Indian relics on the Tom Byrd place about two miles north of Charleston. Two skeletons and several fine pieces of pottery were dug up.

Stephen Williams, in 1963, made some test excavations in Mississippi County at O'Bryan Ridge, Black Bayou and Wolf Island.<sup>32</sup>

In 1964 Dick Marshall supervised a study of the Hoecake mounds, southeast of East Prairie. He and his associate Darrel Henning did the work under a \$500 grant provided by the University of Missouri. The Hoecake excavation was the first "Baytown" site uncovered in Southeast Missouri. Four burials were uncovered by Marshall and Henning.<sup>33</sup>

Another exploration in the county was done by James Finley Hopgood, originally a resident of East Prairie, for his Masters Thesis in 1964 to 1966. He states in his preface, "Acquisition of data was made through test excavations and/or surface reconnaissance at nine sites. Placement in time of the sites and phases is made through a correlation of sites with extinct river channels, radio-carbon dating, and relative cultural dating. A span of from about 400 B. C. to about A. D. 700 is indicated for the phases under study."

"Archaeologists working in southeast Missouri have become increasingly aware that greater precision is needed in analyzing and defining the cultural phases of the region. This study proposes to solve part of the problem through an analysis limited formally, temporally, and apatially to one cultural tradition, the Baytown."

Hopgood located nine sites in Mississippi County. He made tests at the Burkett site, Cooley site, Miller site, Hess site, Redden Hill site, Hoecake site, and Shelby site.

He included a detailed analysis of his findings but concluded by writing, "Progress has been made in the continuing project in the reconstruction of the culture history of southeast Missouri, but no illusions are held. The study has brought up more questions than it has solved, and many of the interpretations advanced are of a tentative nature. There are a host of research problems involving Baytown tradition of the Cairo



Lowland which await the hard work of interested archaeologists."

The most famous site in Mississippi County, earlier called Beckwith Fort, has now been renamed Towosaghy State Park. Archaeologists on the Towosaghy site claim it may prove to be one of the most important remaining Indian city sites in the southeastern part of the United States. In future years Towosaghy is to be excavated, and the original buildings reconstructed, providing a "living museum" of the life of the ancient peoples who inhabited Mississippi County.

## Chapter III

### *EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS AND OTHER DISASTERS*

#### *Earthquakes*

The only district of Missouri which failed to prosper during the territorial period was the district around New Madrid where a disastrous earthquake retarded the growth of the country for years. The area had a tendency to be swampy, the once flourishing trade with the Indians had begun to decline there, and the final touch of the earthquake almost depopulated the region.<sup>1</sup>

Charles Latrobe, an Englishman and a distant relative of Commander Nicholas Roosevelt's wife, Lydia Latrobe, reported having heard that during the autumn of 1811, "A spirit of change and recklessness seemed to pervade the very inhabitants of the forest. A countless multitude of squirrels, obeying some great and universal impulse ..... were seen pressing forward by tens of thousands in a deep and solid phalanx to the South." Something has frightened the squirrels, but no one then understood the connection between the eccentric animal behavior and the earthquake that followed.<sup>2</sup>

In the middle of the night of December 16, 1811, the citizens of the little village of New Madrid were suddenly awakened by the creaking of timbers in their cabins and the crashes of chimneys as they fell to the ground. They hurried from their homes into the streets, fleeing from the first of a series of earthquake shocks known collectively as the New Madrid earthquake.<sup>3</sup>

There were shocks at short intervals during December 16 and 17 gradually decreasing in intensity. Then they came after longer intervals until January 23, 1812, when there was another intense shock. In the early part of February there were several sharp tremors, and beginning on February 7 the earth shook almost constantly for several days. The shocks continued at intervals for almost a year, but the people became gradually accustomed to the vibrations and paid little attention to them. So frequent were they that a plantation bell which rang every time there was shock is said to have rung every day and on some days continuously for hours from the first tremor in December until the middle of March.<sup>4</sup>

The earthquake centered around New Madrid, but the area severely affected included all the central Mississippi Valley—Southeast Missouri, Northeast Arkansas, and Western Kentucky and Tennessee. Tremors were felt over a much larger area, however, and throughout some one million square miles,

approximately one-half the area of the United States at that time, the vibrations were strong enough that they could be detected without the aid of instruments.<sup>5</sup>

These shocks have not been surpassed or equalled for number, continuance of disturbance, area affected or severity. Only the scarcity of population and the low log cabins of the frontier kept it from having more fatal results. Just one or two people were killed on land, although quite a number were drowned when boats capsized or were washed down the river.<sup>6</sup>

Bradbury mentions seeing drifting canoes, the owners of which he afterward found had been lost. Hildreth described the loss of several boats and their crews by caving banks. Lloyd recorded that a flat boat belonging to Richard Stump was swamped and six men drowned. Many other boats were destroyed by snags and the river was covered with wrecks.<sup>7</sup>

Nicholas Roosevelt, great-grand uncle of Theodore Roosevelt, was commanding the "New Orleans", the first steamboat to ply the inland American waters, on its run from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. His bride, Lydia Latrobe, was with him. When they arrived at New Madrid they found the village in chaotic ruins. Below New Madrid, the crew proceeded cautiously, for they still had to avoid snags and sawyers which had been churned up by the earthquakes. The "New Orleans" reached Natchez in early January and was given a tumultuous welcome by the frontier town.<sup>8</sup> So numerous were the disasters that the arrival of Captain Roosevelt with the steamer "New Orleans" was regarded as almost miraculous.<sup>9</sup>

There have been numerous eyewitness accounts of the New Madrid quake. Some of them by inhabitants of the area at the time, have naturally been colored by their excitement and terror. Many scientific men, including John James Audubon, Major Long, Daniel Drake, and Jared Brooks, were not far away at the time and through them have been handed down accounts of phenomena during the earthquake, many of which have been substantiated by geological research. Timothy Flint, a Presbyterian minister, visited the scene, and Senator Lewis F. Linn also became interested in the quake and collected stories and information about it.<sup>10</sup>

When the great waves of earth reached a peak they burst, leaving huge fissures in the ground from which came water, sand, and a black bituminous shale. These fissures were said to be as much as five miles long, sometimes, and wide enough to swallow horses and cattle. Often sulphurous vapors accompanied the quakes.<sup>11</sup>

Great waves formed on the Mississippi, the banks of the river gave way in huge chunks, and there are accounts of an entire island that was destroyed. Spectators mentioned the darkness of the atmosphere just after the quakes, and often spoke of "flashes of light". They mentioned, too, a loud rumbl-

ing noise, like subterranean thunder, that accompanied the destructive vibrations.<sup>12</sup>

The earthquakes left many strange formations in the land. There were fissures in the earth over a large area, sometimes partially or completely filled with sand. There were sand dikes, bluffs left by landslides, broken-down river banks, uplifts and domes, and large areas of sunk lands due to the settling or warping of the alluvial deposit. Some of these sunk lands formed sand sloughs, broad and shallow and filled with sandy ridges. Some are river swamps, while others are lakes of standing water, like Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee, the largest of the lakes presumably formed by land sunk during the quake. The course of the Mississippi River even shifted somewhat after the earthquakes.<sup>13</sup>

The result of the quake was to retard the growth of Southeast Missouri for years. The village of Little Prairie, near present Caruthersville, was almost completely destroyed. At the time of the first shock it had about one hundred families, but only two or three were left by 1823. New Madrid likewise was almost depopulated, and the caving banks of the Mississippi carried part of the village into the river. Settlements along Great Prairie were also practically demolished.<sup>14</sup>

Some farms were precipitated into the river, others were covered by water, while still others became the area of "sunk lands". Altogether, thousands of acres of tillable land were lost.<sup>15</sup>

Trees were split or tilted in the rolling motion of the land, were hurled into the river when banks were washed away, or were submerged in the sunken area. Probably 150,000 acres of forests were destroyed in this way.<sup>16</sup>

Congressional efforts to help the sufferers were rather ill-fated ventures. Certificates granted to owners of land in the stricken area, good for location on the public land elsewhere, proved easy game for speculators, and only a few of the actual sufferers benefited from the act. Sometimes they sold their land at practically give-away prices before learning of the act, sometimes claims were forged, and in the later scramble for land the more unscrupulous New Madrid settlers sold to the speculator more than one claim to the same lands.<sup>17</sup>

The numerous instances of fraud and the complications resulting from the mix-up in land titles tended to dim the memory of the earthquake itself and even caused some doubt of its disastrous effect. The speculation on land certificates became almost an organized industry and the certificates themselves circulated so widely they practically became legal tender for purchasing new lands.<sup>18</sup>

Mississippi County, being on the New Madrid fault, has had its share of tremors. A fairly severe shock was felt in 1882 and a series of tremors in November of 1895 caused considerable excitement according to a newspaper account, "Buildings shook,



chimneys tumbled, women shrieked and brave men trembled. Happening as it did - about 5:15 every one stayed up who got up, and everyone had his little story to tell about the buildings rocking. Much damage was done. As far as we have been able to learn, the school buildings and churches were considerably damaged. Several residences and the county jail suffered damage and the Opera House was cracked wide open. Three water spouts have been formed since the early morning's earthquake, one being located at the Big Lake Bridge, another on Dr. J. M. Rowe's farm, four miles south of Charleston, and the other just south of Bertrand. It is said the water is flowing from these holes like a stream from a spring."

And the following day, "We have had three earthquake shocks since our last issue. Several families have departed from our midst. The earthquake scare was too much for them, and they were by no means easy in mind until the train pulled out today carrying them with it."

Three miles south of Bertrand, covering a territory at least one mile in extent, hundreds of mounds, ranging in size from six inches to ten feet in circumference composed entirely of white sand, were thrown up. The pumps in the neighborhood ran water for fifteen minutes after the disturbance had passed.

A Mr. Levan, from the Bridges district reported that the earth cracked open and that springs from which the water gushed were to be seen on all sides.

Tom Dodge and a Mr. Laws of the Big Lake area reported holes in the ground gushing water.

Rube Walker and George Foust in the Fox district reported that pumps overran for ten minutes and that in a field the overflow made a large pond. According to their report, at least fifty holes in the ground were made, some of them large enough to bury a horse in. From each water gushed forth.

In the Henson area four acres of ground at the head of Henson lake sunk and was submerged in water.

Nothing of importance was noted until 1905 when, according to reports, the earth trembled quite violently throughout the Mississippi Valley. People in Charleston rushed from their homes at 11:04 p.m. and later reported a peculiar atmospheric condition at the time, by which the moon presented a contorted appearance.

Two earth tremors of medium intensity were felt in Southeast Missouri, apparently centered over or near the New Madrid fault, and to lesser degree in nearby states about 11:25 Sunday morning, March 3, 1963.<sup>19</sup>

Since 1923 there have been twelve minor quakes in the New Madrid Fault Zone.

### *Floods*

It was not the New Madrid earthquake alone that focused unfavorable attention on the "Lowlands". The area already had

a reputation for being unhealthy, a region in which an agricultural society supposedly would be difficult to establish. Nathan Parker in *Missouri As It Is* published in 1867, said of the submerged lands, "As the waters are dried up from the swamps, there is a sediment, stench and poison left on them that cause disease and death not only to those that live on the borders, but likewise to inhabitants that live in the vicinity."<sup>20</sup>

The most significant factor in limiting the growth of Southeast Missouri was not the earthquake or its reputation, but rather the actual existence of a large body of land with severe drainage problems.<sup>21</sup>

The development of the area was closely linked with efforts at reclamation which would improve lands that frequently overflowed, improve land transportation between dry areas, and give the entire area a more favorable image. For more than twenty years Congress periodically considered the disposal of swamplands. In 1826 the United States Senate approved Thomas Hart Benton's resolution to have the General Land Office report on the quantity and location of public lands in Missouri and Illinois which were unfit for cultivation because of their wet condition. A subsequent report by the General Land Office included little precise information and concluded that insufficient inducements existed to reclaim such an extensive swamp. Congress took no action on this report.<sup>22</sup>

Eventually in 1849 Congress did begin to map out a general policy toward swamp and overflowed land. In 1850 Congress ceded all remaining land of this type to the state within which it lay. Missouri received 3,346,936 acres, primarily in Southeast Missouri. Historians of land policy have tended to view the swampland cession as one of the greatest give-aways in American history.<sup>23</sup>

Within two years the state had surrendered such land to the various counties of Southeast Missouri. Thereafter, occasional efforts were made to return to somewhat greater planning but until the 1930's local county or drainage districts were mainly responsible for any work that was done.<sup>24</sup>

The history of Mississippi County has been paralleled by a history of the levee districts, drainage districts, and set-back levees, all of which have changed organization many times and would require a great amount of research to record in depth.

According to an item in an old newspaper the greatest overflow of the Mississippi River known occurred in 1785 and the French settlers on the Illinois side of the river were driven to the Missouri side where many of them remained, thinking that such floods were common occurrences. Many more floods were to come.

In 1859 a levee in Mississippi County costing \$100,000 and being thirty miles in length was completed following the high water of 1858, which was said to have been eighteen inches

higher than the water in 1844 and an equal to the flood of 1815.<sup>25</sup>

The Enterprise-Courier, in its Centennial Edition of 1937, stated in a headline, "EARTHQUAKES, FIRES, CYCLONES AND FLOODS FAIL TO HALT PROGRESS OF PIONEERS", but it required much money and work over a period of many years before citizens of Mississippi County and other nearby areas could feel safe from floods.

Newspaper accounts in 1882 give some idea of the extent to which the early settlers of the county were plagued by the flooding of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. "Mississippi River back water is from three to six feet deep in the swamps of Mississippi and Wolf Island townships, and the farmers of that part of the county are skirmishing around driving their stock on high land. The back water is nearly up to Henson Station. The river bank is caving in at Bird's Point, and Thompson Bird will be compelled to move his fine residence, stables, etc. back two or three hundred yards."

By February the river had reached a height of 51 feet 2 inches on the gauge at Cairo, Illinois with the water at the top of the levee. Around five thousand people left Cairo for safer ground. It was supposed to be the highest water since 1844, and in Mississippi County all the farms on Big Lake, Belmont, Henson's Station, Dermon's Mill, Bird's Point, Texas Bend, Wolf Island, James Bayou, and Hough Station were under water. The water came within a mile of Charleston, the highest spot in the county, and thousands of dollars of stock and goods were lost. The water was fourteen inches above a mark made by Abraham Bird showing the high water mark in 1815.

As soon as the water began to recede, leading citizens got up a petition to be presented to State Senators Francis M. Cockrell and Geo. G. Vest and State Representative Lowndes H. Davis and other members of the House asking them to use their influence in getting a sum of money appropriated to rebuild and repair the levee which at one time was built along the entire length of the seventy-five miles of river front but which had been broken and largely washed away by the flood.

An opposite extreme was reached in October of 1891 when the paper reported, "We understand that at least 1,200 Iron Mountain & Cotton Belt cars are now laying in the yards at Bird's Point, caused by the low water (four feet in the middle of the river) as it is almost impossible for a boat to land at the Bird's Point incline."

But in 1892 the papers again reported flooding, "The big levee at the Drinkwater brothers farm on Big Lake broke and flooded the whole neighborhood for miles around. Barney Rolwing was in town this morning from Texas Bend and says the entire country in his neighborhood is covered with water."

Some farmers had undertaken to ditch and build levees in an effort to keep their lands from flooding, but this was a spotty

and ineffective method for the county as a whole. Newspapers of the late 1800's were filled with articles stressing the need for a good levee system for the county and the paper reported a meeting held in June of 1883, "At a meeting of the citizens of this place called at the courthouse on the evening of June 14, to take in consideration the necessity of securing proper drainage of our county, the object of which having been explained by L. W. Danforth, and upon his motion Judge J. M. Ringo was called to preside as Chairman and Wm. Wilbur elected Secretary and J. J. Russell being called upon explained the law governing such cases a resolution by Mr. Danforth was unanimously accepted. On the motion of Dr. Rowe the meeting was adjourned to meet again Saturday, June 23, at the courthouse."

But it was to be another ten years before some action was taken. In 1893 the Honorable Ben. T. Walker was preparing a bill which was to be introduced in the Missouri Senate and which was believed to be of great importance to Southeast Missouri. It provided for a survey of the swamp lands of six counties in the southeast corner of the state with a view to reclaiming them for agricultural purposes. The cost of such a survey was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. Walker, a civil engineer, was thoroughly familiar with the condition of the swamp and overflowed lands. He thought that at least 500,000 acres could be reclaimed by ordinary methods and a much greater area by adopting a general system of levees and ditches.<sup>26</sup> He felt that ten years before when the state had appropriated \$15,000 for a topographical survey of the area, the money for all practical purposes was wasted. The survey, he thought, was not conducted as anticipated, and there were no field notes or other data that were of any help.<sup>27</sup>

Walker's plans called for a complete survey, with full field notes, levels, etc., conducted so that there would be something practical on which to base a system calculated to reclaim the land. In his opinion, and, in fact, the opinion of other civil engineers familiar with the locality, the land had sufficient fall to drain itself if Black River, Little River, and St. Francois River were straightened out and cleared of obstructions. Once this was accomplished, the various townships could construct ditches, and then the southeast could unite with Arkansas in the construction of levees to prevent an overflow of the Mississippi River. This latter enterprise had long been contemplated, but it was not deemed wise to construct a levee as long as the land did not drain itself.<sup>28</sup>

Some of the swamp lands granted to the state by the Government had been held as school land but were profitless at that time. In fact, none of the land was a source of revenue either to the state government or individuals. Corporations had long been trying to get control of the swamp lands, probably for the valuable timber thereon and in the future hope that the swamps



would be drained. Some of the county courts had foolishly disposed of a considerable quantity of such land without receiving adequate reimbursement, but the great bulk was still the property of the state, and it was the desire of the people in the southeastern section that it be held for actual settlement and improvement.<sup>29</sup>

In June of 1893 the Swamp Land Commissioners met in Charleston to select a chief engineer to make the topographical survey and view of all the overflowed lands. They met again a week later with the following being present: W. K. Chandles, Bollinger County; B. C. Jones, Butler County; W. F. Shelton, Dunklin County; L. A. Lewis, New Madrid County; H. C. Garrett, Pemiscot County; Wm. Hunter, Scott County; H. H. Bedford, Stoddard County; J. P. Sebastian, Wayne County; Samuel Hilt, Cape Girardeau County; and Edwin P. Deal, Mississippi County.

The Commission elected William Hunter, permanent chairman, and E. P. Deal, permanent secretary. The secretary was authorized to procure a seal with proper inscription, (as per act of legislature) and a record book and necessary stationery. Applications for chief engineer were to be received by the Commission before the next meeting which was set for July 18-19 at Kennett, Missouri.

When the members of the Commission arrived at Kennett, they were met at the depot by a delegation of citizens and the Silver Band. The members were comfortably provided for at hotels or private houses and after dinner held an informal meeting at the county clerk's office. During this meeting the organization was completed by the election of Dr. B. C. Jones, Butler County as vice-president; and W. F. Shelton, Dunklin County as treasurer; and applications for the position of chief engineer were read. The Commission went into secret session and balloted on the applications. The successful applicant was Nathaniel C. Frissel, of Cape Girardeau County, who was then surveyor of that county. The commission adjourned with plans to meet at Sikeston on August 23, 1893.

In 1895 Frissel, although not finished with the survey, submitted a partial report to the General Assembly in which, without estimating the eventual cost, he concluded that general reclamation was feasible. However, the General Assembly failed to appropriate additional money to inaugurate such a program.<sup>30</sup>

Local landowners were not waiting on the General Assembly. Thomas Beckwith and other strong advocates of levees formed a plan around 1892 to make Mississippi County one huge drainage district. Later the plan was somewhat changed and three districts were formed. The county assessor levied the tax, according to the benefit the land would receive, which averaged from one to five dollars per acre. This amount was paid at the rate of ten per cent per year.

District No. 2 was the first to construct its levee, which was completed in the fall of 1893. The levee was about seven miles long and four or five feet high. It enclosed about 4,200 acres of land lying between Big Lake, the Mississippi River, and Scott County. The directors were George Burns, Barney Rolwing and George Rolwing.

District No. 1 embraced the land from about one mile east of Charleston to the south edge of Big Lake. At Al Drinkwater's place it turned southeast to Stephen Bird's farm and then on down to Bird's Point. It was this stretch of six or seven miles (from Drinkwater's to the point) where the principal work was done. At Stevenson's Bayou a 24-foot embankment was required. Here a sewer was placed to drain the bayou and Fish Lake. At the other point, which was Cameron Hollow a few miles south, the fill was nineteen feet. From here the levee stretched to a point two miles south of Norfolk where Big Lake emptied into the Mississippi River and was twenty miles in its entire length. The directors of this district were Thomas Beckwith, W. T. Marshall, and Stephen Bird. This work was done under the direction of John C. O'Bryan and George F. Dewey, a descendent of Rear Admiral George Dewey.

District No. 3 commenced at O'Bryan's Ridge. Running south it followed the river southeast to the Belmont branch of the Iron Mountain about three miles back of Belmont, then south to the river north of Wolf Island and to below a point a mile or two from Hickman, Kentucky. It had a total length of twenty miles. This district was the largest of the three and embraced about 67,400 acres, and extended back to Black Bayou, within a mile or two of East Prairie. Commissioners were Miles Lee, George Bailey and Judge Hess.

Flooding of the lowlands continued, however, when in March of 1897 the river at Cairo stood at 50 and 5/10 feet and more was expected. The paper stated, "Not since the year 1892 has the water wrought such devastation in this part of the country. Refugees from Henson, Crosno, Belmont, and Wolf Island are flocking to higher ground, and the suffering is very great. Fully five hundred persons in Mississippi County are rendered homeless by the flood. Sixty-five square miles are under water. Sixteen inches more would cover the ridge upon which Hough Station stands, thus making an unbroken sheet of water thirty-four miles across. The Secretary of War has ordered all the government fleets to the rescue of people in the over-flowed districts between Cairo, Illinois and Memphis, Tennessee. At Bird's Point only two families running the two hotels and one storekeeper family remain out of about one hundred. Five more houses floated away last night, making about twenty in all washed away."

The following day's paper reported that at Bird's Point, "The wind and wild high white caps almost destroyed this place

last night. Fifteen more houses floated away last night. Over \$10,000 worth of property has been lost. Ruin and wretchedness is all there is to be seen. Frightened men and women are crowded into the upper stories of houses and on freight sheds waiting for the water to recede. Over two hundred are housed in box cars at Smithon, East Prairie, LaForge, Bertrand and Charleston. The Cotton Belt Railroad Company is the greatest loser. Grant Lumber Co.'s cottages are standing without any dread of the flood. Over two hundred yards of new levee was lost after a heroic effort to save it. River pirates are in the backwater below town with yawls, stealing furniture, lumber and other property."

A Wolf Island item in the paper strove for a little humor, "The farmers, instead of getting ready for the coming summer, are diligently engaged in gigging fish on their respective farms. The merchants are doing a rushing business ferrying customers from the levee to their stores."

In 1907 the state established the St. Francis River Commission to determine the most practical plan for draining and reclaiming overflowed lands embraced within that particular river basin. The only Missouri counties to be included in this group were: Butler, Dunklin, Ripley, and Stoddard. No action resulted, however, for the Arkansas legislature failed to appoint a similar commission to cooperate with Missouri, and the Missouri legislature had insisted that any such work in the St. Francis Basin be done jointly with Arkansas.<sup>31</sup>

Landowners of Scott, Mississippi and New Madrid counties met at the court house in Charleston on November 30, 1909, to discuss and further plans to completely drain and levee the three counties named.<sup>32</sup> A tri-county levee and ditch district was organized at the April term of the Mississippi County Circuit Court the following year.<sup>33</sup>

It is estimated that Mississippi County by private subscriptions, taxes, and otherwise, raised and expended \$50,000 on levees before the Civil War. Later the county raised money in taxes and bonds and from state appropriations, making a total of \$275,000 that had been spent by 1910.<sup>34</sup>

Just as important as the levee systems are the many miles off drainage ditches that interlace the southeast lowlands. Drainage districts were organized and formed to build more and better ditches, to widen and straighten channels, and to divert water away from the lowlands.<sup>35</sup>

While Mississippi County did not lead in the forming of these drainage districts, by 1901 six large ditching districts had been formed.<sup>36</sup> When completed the total acreage drained was 239,392 and the value to farming was inestimable.

#### *District No. 1 - Wolf Hole Ditch*

This was started at the November 1897 term of the county court, and the survey and estimate made that winter. The work of constructing was let in 1898 to J. Handy Moore for \$10,000.





A FLOATING DREDGE, one of several used to drain the swamp land of Mississippi County in the early 1900's.



The ditch starts in a small depression south of Charleston known as Wolf Hole, which is the termination of a number of small ditches draining a large body of land surrounding it, and runs in a southerly direction, then southwest to and through Rayburne cypress, to the head of Black Bayou which carries the water to the river. It is about nine miles in length. J. W. Bowser, Ben Huff and J. C. O'Bryan were the original commissioners. Thomas Beckwith, E. P. and J. D. Deal, C. J. Moore, J. H. Moore, A. W. Chapman, and others, were the promoters.<sup>37</sup>

*District No. 2 - Maple Slough Ditch*

The work of constructing this ditch was let March 16, 1901 to J. Handy Moore at a cost of \$28,381. E. P. and J. D. Deal, George H. Bridges, J. J. Russell, T. Jackson, R. L. Shelby, and others organized this district. The ditch starts in the southwest quarter of section 37, township 27, range 15 and runs in a southwesterly direction through Maple Slough and Flag Pond and the slough beyond to the New Madrid and Mississippi County line. Original commissioners were E. W. Ogilvie, J. F. Martin and George Kenrick.<sup>38</sup>

*District No. 3 - Ash Slough Ditch*

A. B. and C. R. Bement, Dr. W. F. Ginstead, H. M. Brown, and others were instrumental in organizing this district. The work was let on March 6, 1901, to Pollard, Goff & Co., who agreed to have it completed in September of 1902. This ditch starts at the corner between sections 7 and 18, township 26, range 15, and runs in a southwesterly direction a distance of nearly six miles to a connection with the New Madrid County ditch in Ash Slough. Original commissioners were Tennessee Jackson, John Lett and A. E. Harris. George F. Dewey was the civil engineer and W. C. Russell attorney for the district.<sup>39</sup>

*District No. 4 - The Rowe Ditch*

This district comprises the territory lying between the Maple Slough district and the Wolf Hole district and contains about 11,500 acres. It runs nearly parallel to the Wolf Hole Ditch and has its terminus at the same point in Black Bayou. It is about eight miles in length and was promoted by C. J. Moore, J. M. and George Rowe, John Fox and sons, Wm. Shelby, E. W. Ogilvie, O. W. Joslyn, and others. Original commissioners were Elbert Cummins, F. J. Hess and R. A. Barry, with George F. Dewey as civil engineer and E. Jerry Deal as attorney.<sup>40</sup>

*District No. 5 - The Fish Lake Ditch*

This is the largest and longest ditch in the county. It starts in Fish Lake and runs south along the outlet, thence to the outlet into James Bayou. Thence it runs in a southerly direction to the head of Ten Mile Pond at the south half of section 2, township 24, range 16, or from Henson Lake following James Bayou to the same point in Ten Mile Pond. Original commissioners were Tennessee Jackson, George Foust and H. D. Sutherland, with C. S. Reynolds, assisted by E. Thrupp, as engineer and Boone and

Lee attorneys. Some of the promoters were Ben Huff, T. Beckwith, E. P. and J. D. Deal, J. H. Moore, J. W. Bowser, W. T. Marshall, and Clarence Johnson.<sup>41</sup>

#### *District No. 6 - White Pond Ditch*

This ditch starts near the head of White Pond, south of An-niston, and runs south through White Pond and a distance of about five miles to connect with James Bayou at or near Ten Mile Pond. E. Cummins, T. Jackson and A. E. Harris were the original commissioners with C. S. Reynolds the engineer. It was promoted by C. A. Stotts, R. F. Davidson, Charles Balding, J. W. Bowser, James Price, T. Holt, and others.<sup>42</sup>

All the levee and drainage districts were later organized into two districts with District No. 1 the floodlands south of Big Lake and District No. 2 that land north of Big Lake. When District No. 1 exhausted its funds two new districts were formed; St. John's Levee and Drainage District took the southern part of the county and District No. 3 the northern part.

St. John's Levee and Drainage District is a New Madrid and Mississippi County Circuit Court District with five members elected by the land owners for a term of five years. District No. 3 is a County Court District with three members who are appointed by the court for three year terms.

The Army Corps of Engineers directs and assigns any construction but the board manages, supervises and polices the districts. It is financed by assessed benefits levied against the land and a levee tax collected by the counties.

Board members of the St. John's Levee and Drainage District in 1972 are: A. C. Riley, George Story, W. C. Bryant, Wendell Choate, and Furg Hunter. Tom J. Brown, Jr. serves as secretary to the board. Board members of District No. 3 are: Eddie Marshall, Glenn Hillhouse and Jim Bogle.

One hundred seventy miles of public ditches had been dug in Mississippi County by 1910 and that year marked the beginning of tile drains. During that year about seventy-five miles were leveled and tiled. J. I. Belote was operating a concrete tile plant in Charleston.<sup>43</sup>

The southeast lowlands now have over 1,200 miles of ditch to drain away runoff. They vary considerably in size and character but the bootheel is drained and most of the swamps are gone. Gone also are the great stands of timber and most of the wild things that lived in the timber and its associated understorey.<sup>44</sup>

Newspaper headlines of March 1912 read, "COUNTY LEVEES BREAK, THOUSANDS OF ACRES FLOODED. CAIRO IN GRAVE DANGER. REFUGEES FILL THE CITY. RESCUE PARTIES OUT IN BOATS. 26 RESCUED NEAR WYATT. RIVER HAD REACHED STAGE OF 54."

The flood of 1912 which the people thought to be the worst that could happen was recalled much later by William A. Wyatt



Brewer's Lake in Mississippi County. A favorite spot for camping and fishing.  
Courtesy Avis Muench



Flood of 1912 on the Charles C. Watt farm south of Wyatt.



in a letter, "On about April 1, the report reached us that the levee had gone out at or near what was then called Birdspoint. As the large flood of the year before had never covered all the land in Wyatt, my father said there was no cause to be very much alarmed, so later in the afternoon my father and myself walked about a mile north of Wyatt and my father said we had better return home and arrange to take care of our property. We obtained lumber from the Pavey and Vowels Mill and got all the male help we could, and thought we were putting our household furniture on a scaffold above any flood which might reach it, and I was fairly successful in saving our furniture, but my father lost all his, except what they moved to the depot with them. We made beds and slept on the counters until the water began to run through the cracks of the floor, and I think it was on the third or fourth day after the levee broke the government had sent out large rescue boats, and one large motor boat to try to rescue any family or refugees who had fled to their barns and lived in them until they could be rescued."

"Finally when the flood receded and we all went back to our homes, my father and all the older generation remarked that never in all history would we have another such flood, but the very next year, in 1913, after the levees had been rebuilt, and again on the first day of April, our levees broke, and we had another flood larger than that of 1912, but this one came in expected, and the people were more able to cope with the situation than they were in 1912. Many of the farmers had boats, and as soon as the government gave out flood warning, they had fled and transferred their live stock to higher land, mostly in and around this town."

In 1925 a five-man commission, this time called the Black and St. Francis River Commission, was appointed to supervise a survey. Once again the legislation asked for cooperation from Arkansas, and once again Arkansas failed to appoint a commission.<sup>45</sup>

The commission achieved very little. Legislative appropriations for its work were sharply decreased and the failure of Arkansas to cooperate presented a regional approach. Moreover, a decision by the federal government to exclude the Black River, which ran through a portion of Southeast Missouri, from federal grants for levees on the Mississippi and its tributaries lessened enthusiasm.<sup>46</sup>

The commission did ask Congress to appropriate additional funds to prevent constant flooding on the Mississippi and its tributaries, but congressional action on May 15, 1928, to finance surveys and subsequent plans for flood control stemmed far more from the devastation created by the great flood of 1927 than from pressure by the commission.<sup>47</sup> Beginning with the years 1933-34 the Official Manual of the state no longer mentioned the commission in its reports.





Top — Flood water surging over Illinois Central Railroad tracks above Cairo, Illinois, January 28, 1937.  
 Below — 1937 Flood Exodus. Evacuating Cairo, Ill., in advance of flood crest and before the Ohio broke through above Cairo, flooded the Illinois Central tracks (top photo) and almost isolated the city.

— Pictures, Inc.  
 — International News Photo

The great flood of 1927 was far more destructive than any former one because the Mississippi inundated almost its entire delta from Cairo to the Gulf. A half million farm and farm-town people had to flee from the water, or had to be boated out and cared for in an organized way at public expense. The Jadwin Plan for flood control, enacted into law in 1928 was the direct outcome of the 1927 disaster.<sup>48</sup>

The setback levee was built in 1929-31 under a \$2,500,000 contract. It required 8,368,000 cubic yards of earth work, began at Bird's Point and was set back five miles from the main levee along the river. If the river at Cairo ever reached fifty-five feet a hole was to be dynamited in the main river levee.<sup>49</sup>

Mississippi County received \$40,000 for lands for the right of way of the setback levee and drainage canal. Thirty-six thousand was invested in State Road Bonds.<sup>50</sup>

Lucius T. Berthe was a resident of Charleston and civil and flood control engineer for the area for around forty years. He and a few other people were opposed to the Jadwin Plan, but most felt that the new control levees were all that was needed. Then came the big flood of 1937.

Most floods of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers came in April, May, or June, but the flood of 1937 occurred in January. It was unseasonably warm and enough rain fell to build up a major flood. It turned out to be the test flood the Army Engineers had talked about and prepared for. The weather turned cold and the rain changed to sleet and then froze. This flood came down more speedily than most and the sleet was on before the need to move was at all certain.<sup>51</sup>

Thad Snow described it movingly in his book, "I have been flooded, have seen floods and flights ahead of floods that came, and flights from floods that failed to top the levee and didn't come. Almost always, the pitiful labor of evacuation must be done in rain and mud. But never before have I, or the oldest gray-beard inhabitant, seen it done over six inches of frozen sleet that affords cruel footing for man, beast and truck."

"In former floods, the characteristic scene passing my door was always the wagons, piled high with household goods, the chicken crates and children topping out the load. This time the chickens and household goods have largely been left to the water. Some poor people carried out a little bedding on their backs. Most often, the utmost they could do was to carry out the children."

"There are several reasons why this flood is more dreadful than any flood of the past. The sleet, of course, has made it impossible for anybody except those most fortunately situated to salvage much besides their lives. Telephone lines are broken by the sleet. It has not been possible for people in the floodway to be informed either as to the stage of the river or the state of the levee. All sorts of wild tales have been spread by word of mouth

and over the radio. Then the behavior of this flood when it finally tops the levee is unpredictable, because the 'floodway' is new and untried. It is now to receive its first baptism."

Margaret Powell of Cape Girardeau described it in a newspaper account, "On about January 21 government planes flew over the Bird's Point - New Madrid spillway and dropped warnings to the farmers that the area would be flooded. Some began at once to prepare to leave, others refused to believe it was really dangerous. The ground was covered with about six inches of ice and snow. Many persons had flu and pneumonia and had to be carried from their homes. Driving stock over the ice was slow but by Friday the refugees began to pour into Charleston by the hundreds."

On January 25 a National Guard Rifle Company from Sikeston rolled through Charleston before daylight, "to protect U. S. Engineers from angry farmers with blazing shotguns", while the blasting was in progress. The angry farmers failed to materialize but the guardsmen remained on duty nevertheless until two heavy charges blasted a ninety foot crevasse about nine miles south of Bird's Point, and another gap four miles up the river. Additional blasts, heard in Charleston, rattled big plate glass windows and shook buildings. By Tuesday morning water had reached the setback levee and filled the 130,000 acre basin.<sup>52</sup>

Evacuating an area two hundred miles square in twenty-four hours would have been hard under ideal conditions—let alone after three days of constant rain, sleet, snow, and freezing temperature but the Army Engineers did a splendid job of getting people out before dynamiting the levee to save the city of Cairo, Illinois.<sup>53</sup>

The total number of refugees in Charleston was about 2,700 and in East Prairie approximately 2,400.<sup>54</sup>

Lucius T. Berthe had fought the Jadwin Floodway Plan in Congress and in the federal court. Now the test flood had come and the river had sustained Berthe's contention. He felt strongly that the river's verdict ought to be recorded and published.<sup>55</sup> On May 1, 1937, he published what turned out to be a kind of masterpiece, entitled *Old Man River Speaks*.

He wrote, "Following the Mississippi River Flood disaster of 1927, Congress greatly liberalized the federal policy of flood control. The 1928 flood control act approved full federal responsibility because the national economic necessity had become evident, and because the emergency was clearly beyond the possibility of solution and remedy by local, state or cooperative action."

"At first a comprehensive flood control plan was submitted by the Mississippi River Commission but the Congress and the President demanded a cheaper plan. The Chief of Engineers cut the plans to fit the appropriation which the executive had indicated he would approve. Congress then took both flood control



planning and construction out of the hands of the Mississippi River Commission and turned it over to the military."

"General Edgar Jadwin was Chief of Engineers when the present Mississippi River Flood Control Plan, generally known as the 'Jadwin Plan' was adopted. Not until the passage of the 'Jadwin Plan' had the planning of our greatest public improvements been entrusted to an exclusive military authority, whose findings were subject only to its own review. If the 'Jadwin Plan' was denied the benefit of such review before construction, none can deny, insofar as the Cairo area is concerned, that it has received perfectly competent review since. The 1937 flood has given an unbiased verdict."

He then goes on to give a brief review of the Jadwin Plan, "No feature of the 'Jadwin Plan' was so severely criticised and bitterly opposed as the Bird's Point - New Madrid Floodway. The 60 ft. controlling levee grade in the Cairo area was defended by the army engineers solely by the claim that the action of the Floodway would lower by about 7 feet the crest of the 'Maximum Possible' 'Project Flood' of 66 ft. confined stage on the Cairo gauge. Not only the safety of Cairo, but protection to the whole St. Francis Basin in Missouri and the Reelfoot Basin in Kentucky rested on the validity of that claim."

"The consulting engineer for the Missouri levee districts maintained that floodway operation would not bring about sufficient reduction of flood crest to afford protection against the 'project' flood; that its Cairo stage reduction effect for that flood would be only half that claimed by its sponsors, and that Cairo and the Cairo-New Madrid reach would be left with much less flood protection than that afforded by the Jadwin Plan to every other reach on the river."

"During the controversy over the Jadwin Plan in Congress, and before the letting of construction contracts, the leading engineering publication, referring to the Missouri Floodway, stated editorially that it bore the threat of 'bringing obloquy on those who have dealt with it, and by reflex on other public works'. The same publication later accused the army flood control authority of 'trying to nail it down before it can be disturbed' by rushing it into contract to prevent submissal to competent, impartial engineering review. Also before the letting of construction contracts, the American Engineering Council reported to the President of the United States that 'it would be a grave mistake to permit the letting of contracts for the Missouri Floodway - until the engineering practicability and economic feasibility are studied by a non-partisan and competent Board of Engineers.' To make possible such review, President Hoover withheld the letting of contracts until advised by the Attorney General that he was without color of legal authority."

"Came the 1937 flood! It was not the 'maximum possible' or 'greatest predicted' 66 ft. Cairo confined stage 'two river project



flood', but a flood for which the confined stage would have approximated 62 feet on the Cairo gauge. It was indeed a record Ohio flood, but fortunately there was little contributing flow-out of the Mississippi above Cairo. Even so, it was enough to tax to the limit the structures built under the Jadwin Plan in the Cairo area; and demonstrate their utter inadequacy to protect against the 'project' flood for which they were designed, a verdict of Old Man River himself." The actual crest according to Berthe was 59.62 on February fourth.

On April 10, 1937, Thad Snow wrote a review of the flood in which he stated, "The 1928 flood control plan which embodied the so-called 'Jadwin Plan' contemplated that uniform flood protection should be provided from Cape Girardeau, Missouri to Helena, Arkansas. The recent flood has conclusively demonstrated two important facts - first, that uniform protection was missed by a very wide margin, and second, that protection against the 'maximum possible' flood was likewise missed by a very wide margin. We must get ready to see to it that under a new and expanded flood control policy, the Cape to New Madrid area is not again 'crucified upon the cross of Cairo's necessity, without insuring Cairo's salvation'."

The flood of 1937 was undoubtedly, next to World War I, the worst disaster in the history of the nation from the standpoint of human suffering, destruction of property and cost.<sup>56</sup>

From West Virginia to Louisiana 196 counties in twelve states were affected. Of the 50,997,120 total acres in the affected counties sixteen per cent were flooded and of the 30,032,688 agricultural acres 15.8 per cent were inundated. Out of a total of 6,411,772 persons residing in the 196 counties twenty-three per cent or 1,495,287 were directly subjected to the flood. Conservative guesses placed the flood cost to the areas affected at not less than \$300,000,000.<sup>57</sup>

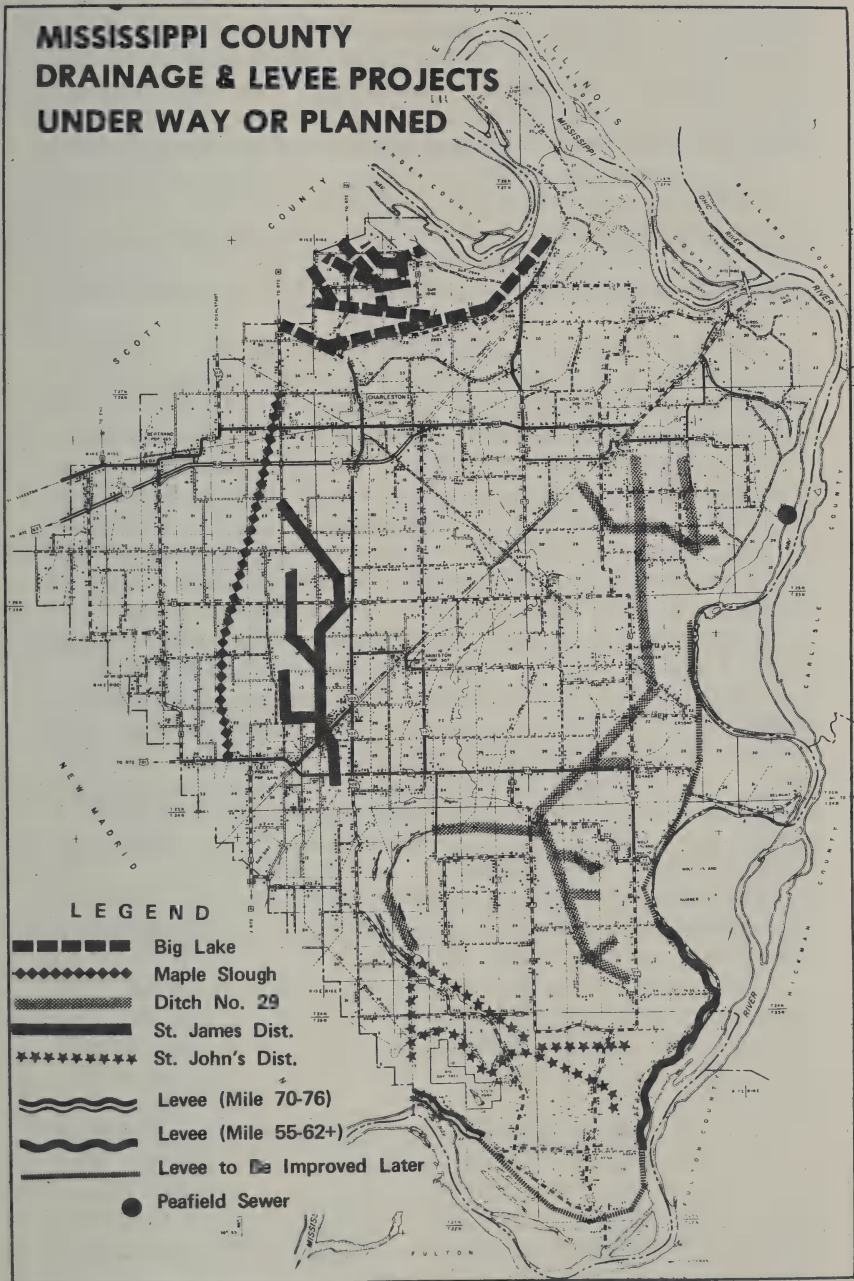
In March of 1945 the spillway was again to be evacuated in case the levee had to be opened, but only twenty-five to fifty per cent of the residents moved out and the levees held.

Again in 1950 the floodway was evacuated by the Army Corps. On the fourteenth of January the Red Cross County Disaster Committee, headed by Oliver French, met at Charleston to consider the situation and make preliminary plans. Frank Johnson was made County Co-Chairman and Chairman in charge of the East Prairie area with various special committees under his supervision.

Two days later water began pouring into the lower region of the county. People began moving their possessions and livestock out of the 139,000 acre flood control basin. Some families were transported to the Malden Air Base Barracks, sixty miles away, some farmers took charge of moving their tenant families and a tent city was set up near East Prairie.

By the first of February some families had returned to their

# MISSISSIPPI COUNTY DRAINAGE & LEVEE PROJECTS UNDER WAY OR PLANNED



homes since it was thought the crest had passed, but a short time later the river began to rise and they were again evacuated. On the fifteenth of February the river crested at 55.9 which was higher than the first crest. The river began a slow fall two days later and on the first of March the Corps of Engineers announced that it would not be necessary at that time to use the spillway.

Twelve thousand people were moved out and kept out for a period of nearly three months. It was done with all possible consideration given to the displaced people. The flood water did not quite top the outside levee and the Corps proposed to strengthen the outside levee rather than reduce its height, as contemplated in the law.<sup>58</sup>

From the period of 1937, when the floodway was used to protect Cairo, to 1955 the mainline levee was strengthened. The spillway, instead of being a wasteland only to be used in emergencies, was being farmed by fourteen thousand people in an area of 205 square miles. There were twenty-two schools, fourteen churches, and ninety-two miles of state highway and seventy-five miles of county hardsurfaced roads.<sup>59</sup>

On March 30, 1955, the first of a series of twelve meetings scheduled by the Mississippi River Commission Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, was held in the courthouse at Charleston with an attendance of around three hundred. The purpose of the meeting was to explain a resolution adopted June 12, 1954, by the Senate Committee on Public Works requesting the Chief of Engineers to examine and review the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, "as one comprehensive whole and in its entirety, and to submit recommendations for any modifications that are advisable with respect to the project or any feature of the project". Col. E. B. Downing of the Memphis, Tennessee, office of Engineers presided.<sup>60</sup>

Since then there have been no major floods or evacuation of the spillway but some areas, particularly in the southern part of the county, are still flooded at times.

Landowners in Levee District No. 3 approved a \$360,000 bond issue on July 27, 1965, for the construction of a pumping station at the Pea Field Floodgate, which helped to improve drainage on some twenty-five to thirty thousand acres of that district.<sup>61</sup>

A project which could eliminate the almost annual flooding of the southern part of the county is now underway. The Mississippi County Soil and Water District's application was approved in 1971 and the planning phase is nearly complete. Total cost of the proposed plan was estimated in the preliminary investigation at \$4,957,500. The plan would provide improved runoff for the entire spillway area and create a recreation lake in the Ten-Mile Pond bayou according to state officials of the Soil Conservation Service.<sup>62</sup>

### *Other Disasters*

Many areas are visited by storms but Mississippi County is in what is sometimes referred to as a "Tornado Alley". In 1884 eighteen houses were blown from their foundations in the Bird's Point area. The same area was almost demolished by a cyclone in 1896 when many houses were wrecked and several lives lost. The steam ferryboat Katherine was wrecked at the mouth of the Ohio River and thirteen people on board were lost. Three of the thirteen were from Bird's Point: Mrs. Wm. Shannon, her baby, and her sister-in-law. A Mr. Orr of Bird's Point was saved. The same storm did great damage in all parts of Missouri, especially St. Louis.<sup>63</sup>

Most of the storms occurred in the spring months and one in June of 1914 killed George Short and injured a boy. In 1923 considerable damage was done in the county and the following year a more disastrous storm occurred with an estimated \$250,000 in damage. In the spring of 1928 the Belmont area experienced a tornado and in January another storm did considerable damage at Anniston where the school building was partly unroofed. In 1940 a large portion of the county was swept by a storm in which two people were killed, twenty injured and much damage done. The next major storms were reported in 1955 when a storm in March hit the Windyville area and another in April did considerable damage at Bertrand.

Wind storms occur almost annually, but if accompanied by hail thousands or even millions of dollars in crops can be lost as happened in 1970 with damage estimated at \$6,976,000.

### *Fires*

Fires in the forests and swamps of the county were fairly common but one of the worst occurred in 1887 when a fire raged in all of Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois for two weeks causing trains and river traffic to suspend because of the heavy smoke. Most of the damage was to fences, telegraph poles and wildlife.



## Chapter IV

### GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES, AGRICULTURE AND PARKS

The fertile area that eventually became known as Missouri has an auspicious location—both for the early explorers and settlers and for its citizens today—in the heart of the Mississippi Valley. This wide valley, stretching between the Allegheny and the Rocky Mountains and north from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great lakes, is not only the largest valley in the United States and one of the largest in the world, but its soil, climate and rainfall make it best fitted for men. It produces food, raw materials, metals and minerals, and boasts rich soil and temperate climate.<sup>1</sup>

The Mississippi lowland, or Mississippi bottoms region of Southeastern Missouri extends north to Cape Girardeau, west to Poplar Bluff, and south into Arkansas and Louisiana.<sup>2</sup> The St. Francis River flows south into the Mississippi through Arkansas. Its largest tributary, the Little River, flows through Southeastern Missouri to join the St. Francis River in Arkansas. The Castor River flows from St. Francois County south to lose itself in the lowland of the "Boot" section.<sup>3</sup>

At the extreme southeast corner where the Mississippi River leaves the State, Missouri's land reaches its lowest point, 230 feet above sea level. The general elevation of the Southeast Missouri alluvial lowland is between 250 and 350 feet. Nearly sixty-two percent of artificially drained land is in that vicinity.<sup>4</sup>

The "Boot" portion of the state and an area extending up a little past Benton, Missouri, is Tertiary clay, sand and gravel. These were the last deposits before the Glacial period, and represent the last phase of the Tertiary submergence of Southeastern Missouri below Cape Girardeau. The original floor of the lowlands is believed to have changed only slightly since middle or early Tertiary times.<sup>5</sup>

Mississippi County is in the southeastern part of Missouri bounded on the east, north and south by the Mississippi River and on the west by Scott and New Madrid counties.

The surface of the county is flat to faintly undulating. Shallow depressions and small ridges, from six inches to ten feet in height, appear throughout the bottoms, usually extending in a general north-and-south direction, approximately paralleling the course of the Mississippi River.<sup>6</sup>

According to Thomas Beckwith, the highest ridge he found was forty-one feet high and located about eight miles northwest of Charleston.

The elevation at Charleston, the centrally located county seat, is the highest part of the county. It is 325 feet above sea level according to the Commercial Atlas. Belmont, on the river is 310, and the average elevation of the southern part of the county is about 300 feet.<sup>7</sup>

The soils of Mississippi County belong with the first and second bottom, or terrace, soils of the Mississippi River. They represent comparatively recent deposits of alluvium carried down by the river from regions to the north. The terrace soils or sandy belt in the western part of the county represent the older soil region, having held at one time the same relation to the river as the present lower or first bottoms. The water table for the whole county is relatively high.<sup>8</sup>

Beckwith wrote, "Charleston is situated in the post tertiary formation, the most recent of the prehistoric periods. During this was when the glacial period was formed, which covered the northern part of the United States to a depth of 1,000 to 6,000 feet of ice. The south line of this glacier had the Ohio River for its southeast border and the Missouri for its southwest, passing through Illinois about 60 miles north of Cairo, Illinois, and when it began to melt it threw out a vast sheet of water of great depth. This glacial period is estimated to have ended in this locality from 10,000 to 15,000 years ago."

When the early settlers crossed the river which gives Mississippi County eighty-five miles of saw-tooth shore line, there were approximately 250,000 acres of timber land in the county, some small prairie spots, numerous lakes, and many sluggish bayous. St. James Bayou ran through the central part of the county and in the southern part were other bodies of water such as: Eagle, Ten Miles, and Four Miles Ponds and Cypress Lake. The land abounded in wild animals and the lakes and bayous were filled with millions of fish and reptiles. Wild turkey, bison, wapiti, deer, wildcat, bear, and other animals and birds roamed at their will unmolested.<sup>9</sup>

There were forests of cypress, tupelo gum, catalpa, sweet gum, sycamore, and many types of valuable white oak, other oaks and hickory. Grapevines, paw paws, dogwood, red oak, maple, box elder, elm, and mulberry trees grew on the ridges or elevation and indicated productive, easily-worked soil not as subject to overflow. There were also hackberry, gum, and willows.<sup>10</sup>

Cottonwood trees played an important part in the annals of Mississippi County. Of all the remarkably fine trees in the area, three of the most famous were cottonwoods.

One stood near the Mississippi River at Belmont and served as an anchor to hold fast the huge chain stretched across the river to prevent the passage of boats when the Union forces were attempting to break the power of the Confederacy in the Mississippi River Valley. Boats moving up and down the river

had long used it as a pier at which they might tie up.<sup>11</sup>

About one-half mile west of Belmont was the great cottonwood which was one of the trees damaged by artillery fire during the Battle of Belmont in the Civil War. It had its top shot out at that time.<sup>12</sup>

Perhaps the best known and best loved was in Charleston at the back of the E. P. Deal residence in the center of State Street between the fourth and fifth blocks. In 1864 it served as a lookout and hiding place for Edwin P. Deal and at one time it was necessary for him to take refuge there when guerrillas made a raid on the town. He was afterwards informed that had they captured him that day, it was their intention to kill him.<sup>13</sup>

In 1936 the tree was estimated to be one hundred years old and the heartwood rotted. In 1944 a windstorm slashed away all except one tall limb of the ancient landmark and the following night it caught on fire. It took the combined efforts of the Fire Department, Missouri Utilities Company and Southeast Missouri Telephone Company to fell it. Measurements taken indicated a circumference of twenty-one feet, thirty-four inches above the normal ground level.

A fourth cypress, not as famous but well remembered, was one that stood on the John Rolwing farm during the Civil War. At that time it was hollow and so large that he kept four horses in it during the war to keep them from being stolen.<sup>14</sup>

Texas Bend was covered with fine walnut trees and about the time of the Civil War, E. L. Brown's father sold a million feet to a St. Louis firm for four dollars per thousand, and was well pleased with such a big price. Many of the trees were six feet across.<sup>15</sup>

Flowers and plants in the southeast formerly included many water plants, some of which did not appear anywhere else in the state. Some of the water plants were water lilies, duckweed, arrowhead, swamp grasses and water plantain.<sup>16</sup>

As for minerals, some of the lead areas of Southeast Missouri had in them traces of silver, occasionally in paying quantities. Smaller deposits of gold, probably brought down during the Glacial period, have also been found.<sup>17</sup>

Common animals which still inhabit the few remaining wooded areas today include swamp rabbit, cottontail, opossum, raccoon, skunk, bat, grey squirrel, and other small animals.<sup>18</sup>

The economic life of the people of frontier Missouri remained relatively simple although it did expand somewhat after the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. Before 1804, few industries composed the entire economic set-up—men farmed, mined lead, boiled salt, hunted or trapped wild animals for food and furs, or traded with the Indians.<sup>19</sup>

When Mississippi County was carved out of Scott County in 1845, cultivated farms were scattered and only on ridges. A spot that is now Washington Street in East Prairie was a high spot of

ground called by hunters "Deer Stand".<sup>20</sup>

Martha J. Woods, who visited Missouri in 1857, kept a diary of her travels and in it recorded this impression of Mississippi County after crossing the Mississippi River by steam ferryboat from Columbus, Kentucky.

"Since leaving the river we have been passing through the Mississippi bottom which is the richest land I ever saw, though nearly entirely in woods, only a few huts to be seen occupied by woodcutters. The trees on this bottom are the tallest and largest I ever saw and suppose not many larger in the world....."<sup>21</sup>

"We travelled the whole of yesterday on this bottom and not through yet. It is dead level all the way and densely covered in forest, except for a few small clearings and some newly built log cabins .... There are some very great hinderance to the settlement of this county although it is so very rich. There are no springs or running streams of water in Mississippi County, only lakes, ponds and wells though very little trouble to dig wells as water can be had at not more than four feet from the surface....."<sup>22</sup>

During the early 1880's many people in the county were engaged in promoting the advantages of Missouri, and Mississippi County in particular, through the organization of an Emigration Society and by newspaper publicity.

The editor of the Enterprise in a local item wrote, "The front of L. D. Danforth & Bros. store presented a grand spectacle this week in the way of wild game, such as deer, turkeys, geese, ducks, quails, coons, 'possums, squirrels and rabbits. This is no unusual sight for us home folks, and we merely mention it to make mouths of sportsmen in less favored sections 'water'."

In 1878 when Logan U. Reavis, a nineteenth century urban promoter, surveyed the county he reported, "The wealth of the county is to be found in its agricultural capacity. Corn is the staple crop, the yield being from 50 to 100 bushels to the acre. So uniformly successful is the corn crop that a good farm will bring a rent of \$5 an acre annually, a price equal to that of improved land in less than fifty miles of St. Louis. Around 33,000 acres are in cultivation. There are probably 60,000 acres covered with water and around 167,000 acres yet to be turned into profitable farms. The population of the county consists of 7,144 whites and 1,622 blacks, a total of 8,766, which is about one person to every 30 acres of land. This county is abundantly able to support a dense population when its vast productive power becomes known and is fully developed. We conclude that Mississippi County is destined to become one of the most populous and wealthy counties in Missouri."

Good uncultivated land in 1879 could be purchased at four dollars an acre, while there were plenty of improved farms to be had at from ten to twenty dollars an acre.<sup>23</sup>

There were many fine apple orchards in the county at that



time which generally gave a regular and bountiful yield. But possibly the greatest advantage possessed by Mississippi County was in the growing of small fruits and vegetables. The soil being sandy, light, and warm, was well adapted to the rapid growth of this class of products.<sup>24</sup>

The main products for the year 1876 were:

Horses	1,395
Mules	865
Cattle	4,112
Sheep	425
Hogs	8,414
Bushels of wheat	24,821
Bushels of corn	610,927
Bushels of oats	2,032
Pounds of tobacco	12,165
Tons of hay	575 <sup>25</sup>

The wheat product for 1877 increased to 100,000 bushels, and the acreage for 1878 was far greater than ever before. Little attention, previous to 1877, had been given to wheat, but it was now an assured fact that it was a crop well adapted to the soil and climate.<sup>26</sup>

In 1881 the St. Louis Republican in an article on Southeast Missouri stated, "The fertile lands of that section which are now selling for from \$5 to \$15 per acre will some day be worth five times that amount".

In 1885 H. J. Deal and Son shipped several thousand cottonwood blocks for the Anheuser Brewer Association of St. Louis. The blocks were cut in the neighborhood of James Bayou and shipped by river.<sup>27</sup> H. J. Deal was also the first person to grow peas in Southeast Missouri around the year 1892.<sup>28</sup>

Other ventures of various kinds were tried. In 1893 I. N. Smith had a large farm of maple sugar trees and expected to supply the local market with syrup and maple sugar. In 1894 A. B. Wolverton had a catalpa tree farm two miles east of Samos and in that same year the St. Louis Globe Democrat has an article stating, "E. P. Deal of Charleston bears the distinction of being the only willow farmer in this country. On his farm about two miles west of Charleston he raises nothing but willow. The willows are utilized in making baskets." At that time Melvin Deal had a basket factory.

A few people came from Kentucky and erected tobacco barns, but they soon learned the rich bottom lands produced a coarse stemmed, thin leaf tobacco that was of little value.<sup>29</sup>

Wild game was still common in 1894 according to the paper, "Deer and turkeys are plentiful in the edge of the swamps south and east of town (Charleston), and a bear is seen once in a while. They have been run close to town by the forest fires that are raging through the bottoms".

Cotton as a commercial product was not important in



FIRST BALE of cotton ginned in Charleston, September 13, 1923, by Whitehead-Davis-Russell, grown on E. Marion Brown's farm by Andrew Price. In the photo, from left, are Paul B. Moore, Paul Handy Moore,

Simon Loebe, George Shelby Sr., Ernest Story, Tom B. Russell, Miss Agnes Price, E. W. Story Sr., Irvin Whitehead, and the little boy is the late Lon Moore.

Missouri until many years after the Civil War, although it had been produced as a domestically used product almost since the beginning of settlement. Production of 41,188 bales was recorded as early as 1860, but the amount fell to 246 bales after the Civil War, influenced perhaps by the lack of slave labor. By 1880 it had risen to 20,318 bales. By 1930 Missouri reported 13,526 cotton farms and in 1935 ranked twelfth in its production and in 1939 was producing 440,000 bales of cotton. Pemiscot, New Madrid, Dunklin, Mississippi and Stoddard, all in the southeast district, were Missouri's leading cotton-growing counties.

The starting point for Southeast Missouri's sudden change from swampland to high-yield cotton country was 1890. It was then that lumber companies came into the area and thoroughly stripped the timber resources. After the timber barons had denuded the forests, levees were built and drainage districts organized. The chief impetus for draining the swampland was to increase the value of the property. As hundreds of miles of levees and dikes were constructed within the drainage district, thousands of acres of land were reclaimed for agricultural use. Prior to drainage, government officials estimated that over seventy per cent of the land in the "Bootheel" was unfit to raise any crop; by 1930 less than three per cent was incapable of being farmed.<sup>30</sup>

As soon as the land was drained, it was cleared for the plow and crops were planted. The reclaimed earth, made especially rich by centuries of deposits left by the floods of the Mississippi River, was excellent farm land. After a brief experience with corn and wheat, the latter grown to meet the demands of World War I, cotton became the chief crop in the Bootheel during the twenties when the boll weevil in Arkansas and Mississippi pushed planters north into Missouri. Between 1920 and 1925 cotton production jumped more than two hundred per cent.<sup>31</sup>

The first bale of cotton ginned in Mississippi County was in 1923 by the Whitehead-Davis-Russell gin for Wilkinson Mercantile Co. It was grown by Andrew Price on the E. Marion Brown farm and the net price paid the grower was \$177.45.<sup>32</sup>

In 1930 Mississippi County, possibly because of its cotton, was one of those leading in mule owning, with 6,550 in the county.<sup>33</sup> Since mechanization, the mule has become almost a show or zoo animal with only around five hundred mules left in the state in 1958.<sup>34</sup>

The southeastern counties also ranked high in the growing of watermelons. As early as 1881 melon buyers from Milwaukee, Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, Cincinnati, and even from Philadelphia visited the melon "plantations" and bought the crop as fast as it could be placed in the railroad cars.

Two hundred sixteen cars were loaded at Melon Switch (a side-track just out of Charleston) and 223 cars were shipped from Bertrand, five miles from Charleston, in 1881. Twelve hundred



melons were put in a car.

The Enterprise of July 22, 1887, reported, "Charleston and its surrounding country has become famous as one of the greatest melon raising regions in the United States. Some dozen years ago an experimental shipment was made, the returns were favorable, and the next year tried on a larger scale. It is estimated that at this time 3,000 and possibly as much as 5,000 acres of land are in melon cultivation. Shipments are now averaging about 100 cars per day. Charleston is the largest town within the limits of the melon territory, and has been appropriately termed the 'Metropolis of the Melon Belt'."

A Globe-Democrat article of 1894 stated, "The southeast Missouri watermelon industry is a business of no mean importance, the product reaching 5,000 cars annually, with an average of 1,200 melons to the car. Of this total of 6,000,000 melons, fully 4,000,000 find their way to St. Louis."

One contributor to the Charleston paper offered the following item of interest, "Those who have been thinking the watermelon industry is the only thing in our county will be surprised to learn that A. J. French shipped his crop of Irish potatoes grown on 22 acres of land, to Chicago and realized the neat little sum of \$7,000."

Watermelons continued to be an important part of the economy and in 1936 the first Watermelon Festival was held in Charleston on August 26 with bands, parades, floats, and with Jean Frazier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Frazier, crowned queen. An estimated six thousand persons were present during the festival.<sup>35</sup>

As early as 1870 when Louis Houck, as roving reporter, singled out unique economic advantages he named Charleston as having, "the finest garden vegetables grown with little labor and of better quality than in southern Illinois."

Another local industry not as well known to the average person today was the selling of "jack snipes". The paper occasionally listed the selling of snipes and in 1883 printed the item, "F. M. & C. A. Stotts bought and shipped from this place during the snipe season 1,800 jack snipes for which they received on an average 17 cents a piece."

But a paper of 1897 sadly reported, "The sports are killing a few jack snipes these days but they are very scarce birds". These were probably Wilson's Snipe and they did indeed become scarce because of the slaughter everywhere.

From 1941 to 1952 snipes were protected by law but once again the snipe is a relatively abundant game bird in Missouri and restrictive waterfowl regulations are causing snipe to again become a valuable hunting resource. In 1972 the limits are eight snipe daily and sixteen in possession.<sup>36</sup>

Goose and duck hunting has also been popular over the years and the area around Charleston was called by one





Products of Mississippi County, Missouri. Agricultural Exhibit, 1910.  
Courtesy Avis Muench



**THE WATERMELON FESTIVAL** was a big event every year in Charleston late in the

1930's, and this photo shows the queen and her attendants in 1939. The queen is now Mrs. J. M. Cullison.

newspaper correspondent the "Goose Capitol of the World". He wrote, "Have you ever seen 5,000 geese flying at one time? It's quite a sight."<sup>37</sup>

The following information is from the Missouri Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Report for 1913-1914.

"Mississippi County is so fortunately situated that the winters are, as a rule, mild. In the extreme southern portion, especially in the vicinity of Wolf's (sic) Island, cotton is grown and shipped out every fall, by boat to Memphis. Corn, alfalfa, cowpeas, and watermelons thrive all over the county. Strong and ample levees protect most of the bottom lands. The lowlands are being rapidly placed on the market and they are so fertile that the corn yield runs from 75 to 100 bushels an acre. The Mississippi River affords an avenue to the markets. Several thousand hogs, raised in the Mississippi bottoms, are carried by boat to Cincinnati every year."

"Openings are offered in the county for tanneries, ice and electric light plants, waterworks, cooperage factories, sawmills, cotton and woolen mills and wood making establishments. A vast quantity of lumber is shipped out every year, but there is enough timber available to last another decade. Barges are loaded with huge logs, along the Mississippi, and towed up stream to Cairo and St. Louis. Wood is the chief fuel, but coal can be had for \$3 a ton. Of late some farmers have been turning their attention, as side lines, to apples, pears, onions, potatoes and tomatoes, and are making money out of it. Unimproved lands cost from \$10 to \$40 an acre, depending entirely upon the location. Some of it is exceedingly good for stock and poultry raising. It costs from \$15 to \$18 to clear some of this land. Improved farm land can be bought from \$50 to \$150 an acre."

Land values increased 164.6 per cent in the ten year period from 1911 to 1921.<sup>38</sup>

The following table gives the commodities shipped from the county in 1912 as supplied by the railroad and express agents. Nothing sold and consumed locally is included.

Cattle, head	7,647
Hogs, head	23,108
Horses and mules, head	427

#### FARM CROPS

Wheat, bushels	257,900
Corn, bushels	1,140,000
Oats, bushels	68,000
Barley, bushels	3
Hay, tons	945
Straw, tons	945
Cowpeas, bushels	31,813
Planting and garden seed	720
Nuts, pounds	12,948

## MILL PRODUCTS

Flour, barrels	24,740
Cornmeal, pounds	6,529,611
Bran, shipstuff, pounds	1,828,309
Feed, chops, pounds	2,602,575

## FOREST PRODUCTS

Lumber, feet	4,953,000
Logs, feet	2,753,000
Railroad ties	5,500
Cooperage, cars	8

## FARMYARD PRODUCTS

Poultry, live, pounds	145,195
Poultry, dressed, pounds	8,000
Eggs, dozen	119,220
Feathers, pounds	330

## COTTON PRODUCTS

Cotton, baled, pounds	22,000
Seed cotton, pounds	12,000
Cottonseed, pounds	72,000

## PACKING HOUSE PRODUCTS

Hides and pelts, pounds	6,075
Dressed meats, pounds	2,455
Lard, pounds	700

## DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter, pounds	2,522
Ice cream, gallons	500

## WOOL

Wool, pounds	160
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## FISH AND GAME PRODUCTS

Fish, pounds	3,660
Furs, pounds	2,950
Turtles, pounds	200
Frogs, pounds	200

## MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Roots and herbs, pounds	450
Ginseng, pounds	40
Sunflower seed, pounds	2,000
Bark, pounds	3,000

## VEGETABLES

Potatoes, bushels	9,130
Sweet potatoes, bushels	600
Canned vegetables and fruits, pounds	312,000

## FRUITS

Miscellaneous fresh fruits, pounds	280
Melons	305,350
Strawberries, crates	33
Cantaloupes, crates	152
Pears, baskets	15

## UNCLASSIFIED PRODUCTS

Junk, cars	2
Ice, tons	87 <sup>39</sup>

For a time the pecan crop brought in a good annual income. In 1942 nearly thirty tons were gathered and sold to a Chicago dealer. As more and more land was cleared pecan trees vanished and only a few groves are left today.

In 1949 R. Q. Brown, County Extension Agent from 1921-1926; 1934-1960, reported on the influence of the county's geographical location, people and weather on its agriculture, "Mississippi County is located far enough north to be an extensive producer of such corn belt crops as corn, small grain, hay and livestock. Yet it is far enough south for cotton to be its major cash crop. This is an important factor in accounting for the fairly well diversified system of farming to be found in the county. Another influence towards diversification is the origin of many of its farmers. A large number, or at least their parents, migrated here from other states. A strong influence for diversification was brought in by the large number from the east, particularly Kentucky and Tennessee. However, a very strong cotton influence came in with large numbers of cotton farmers, who moved here from the south in the early 20's."

According to classifications made by the Bureau of Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, there are thirty soil types in Mississippi County. However, when considered from the standpoint of crop adaptation they may be roughly grouped into four general classes.<sup>40</sup>

About 16% of the county land area contains light sandy soils characterized by that of the Bertrand area extending south to Dogwood. Generally this soil is low in organic matter, ranging mostly from .8% to 1.5%. Except in the lower elevations where the drainage is poor, the available phosphate supply is high to very high. These soils are adapted to the growing of general farm crops and especially well suited to the production of such special crops as watermelons, cantaloupes and peanuts.<sup>41</sup>

The area around Charleston and extending south and west to East Prairie is characteristic of another variable soil type that is similar in color to the sands, but contains .5% to .75% more organic matter. Its phosphate and potash supply is more variable and lower in the case of phosphate. It comprises about 10% of the county's land area.<sup>42</sup>

About 53% of the county area comprises a number of phases of dark heavy soils some of which is often referred to as "gumbo". Using more technical terms, they are mostly Sharkey and Wabash clays, clay loams, or silty clay loams. They lie east of the two light colored types mentioned but usually do not reach the river. It is the county's most productive cotton land and all that is well drained produces excellent alfalfa. With the addition of nitrogen in the form of commercial fertilizer, it is very



profitable for crops like corn and small grain.<sup>43</sup>

Cass and Sarpy soils usually found close to the river and comprising approximately 21% of the county area are the most productive soils. This is particularly true of corn and beans.<sup>44</sup>

Mississippi County comprises an area of 263,040 acres, of which approximately 192,545 acres were in farms in 1945, according to the U. S. Census. According to the same census while only one county in the state is smaller in land area, only nine counties enjoyed a higher total farm income in 1945.<sup>45</sup>

Cotton was still undisputed king as the county's major cash crop in the early 40's, the acreage of which ranged from around 33,000 to 35,000, but which had dropped to 25,200 in 1947. During this period Mississippi County led the state in the average yield of cotton per acre. This was particularly significant in a state that led all other cotton states in the United States that did not irrigate.<sup>46</sup>

Two crops taking second and third place to cotton as crop income producers were soybeans and corn, of which there were grown 50,500 and 54,000 acres respectively, in 1947.<sup>47</sup> Cotton as a major crop has gradually been replaced by corn and soybeans. By 1969 soybeans led all other crops with 120,801 acres followed by corn with 31,674 acres and with cotton down to 13,644 acres.<sup>48</sup>

In 1959 there were 1,085 individually owned farms in the county. By 1964 the number had dropped to 676 as the smaller farms were being swallowed up by the large land owners and in 1969 there were 488.<sup>49</sup> In 1959 the average price per acre was \$243. By 1964 it had risen to \$360 and the average price per acre today is from \$450 to \$500 per acre.

The southeastern corner of the state averages about two more months per year of frost-free growing season. The long frost-free period permits additional profits to farmers who double-crop their land. Wheat and soybeans are the most common crops produced on the same land each year, and certain types of vegetables and horticultural crops are also double-cropped.

The average temperatures recorded for 1969 were as follows:

January	31.5
February	35.6
March	43.1
April	58.0
May	63.6
June	79.1
July	77.1
August	74.7
September	73.0
October	66.2
November	47.5
December	44.6 <sup>51</sup>

Some farmers have experimented with the raising of garden

vegetables, the most successful example being the sweet corn raised in the southern part of the county. The first venture into commercial production was made by Col. Frank Phillips in 1956 who after four unsuccessful years gave up.

In 1958 Wendell Choate and Bruce Larkins started experimental production on a commercial basis. By 1960 methods of growing, harvesting and marketing were developed that assured a financial success. Twenty four hundred acres of land, mostly in the Dorena community, were in sweet corn in 1972. Choate Produce, Inc. cools and ships an average of 500,000 crates, containing sixty ears each, annually. This results in approximately \$1,500,000 in yearly sales.

Sweet corn is handled by Choate Produce, Inc. for neighboring farms owned by James Moreton, Sam Jones, W. C. Bryant, and Bruce Larkins. This operation has gained Mississippi County the distinction of being the largest sweet corn producing area in the United States during the month of July.

The success of this operation led to experiments with cabbage, cucumbers and green beans. The first commercial cabbage production was started by Bruce Larkins and Wendell Choate in 1968. Two hundred acres of cabbage is produced annually by W. C. Bryant resulting in \$125,000 annual sales.

Cucumber production was started by Jim Pollock in 1970. In 1972 one hundred acres were planted and harvested by Jim Pollock, Sam Jones and Wendell Choate.

The first green beans were grown by Frank Phillips in 1958 for processing on a contract basis. In 1972 production of six hundred tons by Wendell Choate, Bruce Larkins, Sam Jones, and W. C. Bryant, was contracted to Razorback Farms, Springdale, Arkansas. They were delivered to Winter Garden Corp., Bells, Tennessee, for freezing.

Agricultural experts predict that more farmers in the county will turn to the growing of vegetables in the near future because all the necessary factors for success are present: rich soil, ideal climate, proximity to large metropolitan areas, and good transportation facilities.

In July of 1969 A. L. "Bud" Story, Jr. started a catfish farm on eighty acres in the Wolf Island district. The enterprise prospered and in June of 1972 he incorporated under the name of Wolf Island Cat Fish Farms, Inc. with Story as president and James Pirtle as vice-president. At that time a processing plant was added with production of fish reaching 100,000 pounds annually. His company supplies seventy-five grocery stores and restaurants in Southeast Missouri and sixty-five in Kentucky.

## **PARKS**

### *H. J. Deal Park (Charleston)*

In 1882 Col. H. J. Deal proposed to give to the City of Charleston two acres of ground situated on Grand Avenue just on the southern boundary of the city limits, for a public park,

provided the city would take charge of beautifying it. He promised to give more land if needed.

#### *Paul B. Moore Park*

Another early park in Mississippi County was the Paul B. Moore Park a mile or so west of Charleston and situated in a large grove of trees. In 1941 there was a drive for donations to improve it. Only \$250 was donated and not much accomplished. It is no longer used as a park.

#### *Rolwing Park (Charleston)*

In 1969 the city park was named in appreciation for the service of Dr. E. Charles Rolwing upon his retirement from medical practice. It was improved in 1972 with the addition of a new basketball court and picnic pavilion. State and federal funds matched local money to pay for the improvements.<sup>52</sup>

#### *Big Oak Tree State Park*

As early as 1904 there was interest in the big oak growing in the area that was later to become a park. In that year an offer of \$1,000 was made for a log from the tree and was to be exhibited at the St. Louis World's Fair. Elgin Davis of East Prairie persuaded the owner of the area to turn down the offer.

Largely through the efforts of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, interest in the big oak became state-wide. About \$3,000 was raised by subscription of school children, business men and civic organizations to protect and preserve it.

The park was created in 1937-38 under the direction of a commission named by Governor Lloyd Stark. It comprised about one thousand acres in the center of which was the "Big Oak" and was named Big Oak State Park.

In 1950 a huge mass of concrete was placed in a rotted streak in its trunk. The Big Oak died in the summer of 1952. It was estimated to be around six hundred years old. At that time it was 143 feet tall and had a 114 foot spread. Its circumference at 4½ feet above the ground measured twenty-one feet. Wire cables stretched from limb to limb, and lightning rods surrounded it.

It was felled October 27, 1954, and cross sections from nine to twelve inches in depth were cut so that they could be polished and displayed. Those promised a cross section were Elgin Davis, of East Prairie for that town and Clyde Swank, City Manager, for Charleston. One was to be put on display in the State Capitol at Jefferson City.

Some time later the name of the park was changed to Big Oak Tree State Park and is now described in the Missouri State Park Board publication as, "Containing 1,007 acres, 80 acres of which are in virgin timber, is located in Mississippi County, 10 miles south of East Prairie on County A to State Highway 102. This botanical garden contains a number of the largest living specimens of big trees in America, according to the American Forestry Association, such as: Green and Pumpkin Ash; Shellbark Hickory; Possumshaw Holly; Bur or Mossycup and

Mutabilis Oaks, and Swamp Poplar. A 22 acre lake has been constructed to provide fishing. Picnic tables, ovens and a shelter are provided for the day visitors."

*City Park (East Prairie)*

The park has a swimming pool, playground and picnic facilities.

*H. A. Jones Memorial Park (East Prairie)*

This park is used principally for baseball games.

*Hequembourg City Park (Charleston)*

The land located on North Sixth Street was acquired around November of 1964. Later both houses on the property were removed and vapor lights installed. The rough fish were cleaned out of the pond and game fish thrown back. A concealed pump puts 200-250 gallons of water per minute into the pond when the water level gets low. Concrete picnic tables and rest rooms were installed and it was opened in the spring of 1965. The property formerly belonged to Frank Hequembourg.

*Hillhouse Park (Charleston)*

This new fifteen acre facility was named in memory of Benny Hillhouse and contains two lighted ball diamonds, two concession stands, restroom buildings, tennis and basketball courts, a camping area, and room for other improvements. It was begun in 1971 and completed in 1972.<sup>53</sup>

*Moore Access Point*

It was named for Joseph H. Moore, whose family donated the land which is one of two points along the Mississippi County river frontage where sportsmen and commercial fishermen can conveniently maneuver boats in and out of the river. The facility was built and is maintained by Missouri Conservation Commission.<sup>54</sup>

*Sam G. Jones Park (East Prairie)*

Rodeos and horse shows are held at this park.

*A. D. Simpson Park (Charleston)*

This park is used principally for little league baseball games.

*Towosaghy State Archaeological Site (Originally Beckwith's Fort)*

This site is east of East Prairie on U. S. Highway 80, then two miles south on Mississippi County AA, three miles south on Mississippi County FF, then east one mile on gravel, and south one mile on gravel. It consists of sixty-four acres, is the location of an Old Indian village of the Mississippian Culture, and the name Towosaghy is a more recent Osage Indian word meaning Old Town. A full-time archaeologist is stationed at the site and, with the weather permitting, conducts excavations of the site particularly during the summer months. Material retrieved from the site will be used eventually in the restoration of the Mississippian village to include the temple mounds, Indian houses, and plaza area. Visitors may walk over the site, being



careful not to disturb the deposits, and observe the excavations in progress.<sup>55</sup>

The site is under the jurisdiction of the State Park Board, which was created in 1953, and whose function is to acquire, protect, develop, and interpret for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the people of the state a well balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational and historic importance.<sup>56</sup>

### *Big Lake*

The largest recreation project in Mississippi County history was approved in April of 1970 and is now under construction—the conversion of Big Lake, north of Charleston, from a muddy slough into a permanent one hundred acre fishing lake. After over \$15,000 was raised locally to purchase land, the Missouri Conservation Commission is spending over \$200,000 to build a dam and levee, relocate a drainage ditch, build parking facilities and boat ramps, and install a pump for use in low-water periods. When construction is completed in 1973, state fisheries experts will clean rough fish from the lake and stock it with game species. Some two to three years later the lake will be opened to the public, providing an attraction for tourists as well as recreation for local residents.<sup>57</sup>

## Chapter V

### TRANSPORTATION

#### *River*

The problem of transportation in the early days of Missouri was a difficult one. There were of course no roads in the wilderness, no carriers except the horse, mule or oxen.<sup>1</sup>

The simplest and easiest method of transportation was the use of the rivers. Over these, heavy loads could be transported with minimum effort. Missouri is particularly blessed with navigable streams. The entire east side of the state is flanked by the Mississippi River, and through the center of the state and on the north half of the west border the Missouri River served as a traffic way. Away from these are such rivers, running in all directions, as: the Salt, Osage, Gasconade, Grand, Meramec, and many others. The first method of water travel was done by canoe, bull boat or flatboat. Next came the keel boats and then the steamboat.<sup>2</sup>

The Mississippi River, almost surrounding Mississippi County, provided its first transportation route. Frequently farmers would accompany their goods to New Orleans, then make the long journey home on foot or horseback.<sup>3</sup>

E. E. Bryant recalled, "One day a gentleman came into our office and in the course of our conversation told me that his ancestors had settled here before there were towns in our county. It was supposed to be around 1825. They settled on the area we know now as the McFarland farm near James Bayou. He said they raised a few crops and in the fall would build a raft, load it with the crops and float it down south somewhere and sell them as well as the flatboat. He also said that they had to cross the Mississippi River and go to Troy, Tennessee, the closest town, which is about 25 or 30 miles inland, to get supplies."

The first steamboat on the Mississippi River, the "New Orleans", left Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1811. The sixth boat on the Mississippi, the "Zebulon M. Pike", was built at Henderson, Kentucky in 1815 and was the first one to ascend the river beyond the mouth of the Ohio. It arrived in St. Louis July 27, 1817.<sup>4</sup>

With the coming of the steamboat it became possible to ship goods upstream as well as down. These boats also brought a windfall to residents along the river because the hungry furnaces demanded frequent feedings of wood and many wood yards were established along the river.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Beckwith described them in his recollections,

"Previous to 1861, wood yards were kept on the river (Mississippi) to sell to steamboats. My father sold about 1,200 cords each year. The woodboats were broad gunnels, strong flatboats 16½ feet broad on the inside, and about 60 feet long. The wood was corded in the boat in ranks, two cords in a rank, 16 feet long and four feet high and from eight to ten ranks of four foot wood in a boat generally at two dollars and fifty cents a cord. A steamboat coming down the river would land and tie up the boat and take aboard as much as needed."

If going upstream the boat would ring her bell when she got within two or three hundred yards of the landing, and the man in charge of the woodboat would rush out and untie it, get aboard and the bow line of the woodboat was tied to the bow of the steamboat, then a big cable with a slip knot in the end of the cable was carried back to the stern of the woodboat and slipped over the near corner of the woodboat and drawn tight at the bow of the steamboat and made fast. The weight in towing the boat was put upon this big cable. The steamboat ran at half speed and would run about five or six miles by the time they got the wood out. The woodboat was then turned loose and the man, with the aid of one or two oars, would land and tie up the boat at the wood yard. The war came on and wood cutting ceased, and the steamboats burned coal from that time to the present."

In 1811 Abraham Bird was agent at Bird's Point near the mouth of the Ohio River. He loaded and unloaded the flatboats and keelboats that plied the Ohio River. Later this was to be the point for a "transfer boat"—a side-wheel steam boat fitted with railroad tracks, so trains could be carried.

One famous occasional visitor at Bird's Point was a young boatman named Samuel L. Clemens, later known as Mark Twain. He took a liking to John Bird's daughter, Nancy Emily, and wrote her some letters which the family preserved until they were stolen.<sup>6</sup>

The Enterprise of December 27, 1879, took note of the first boat to pass Cairo with floodlights, "The R. R. Springer, a new boat, passed Cairo this week. She was furnished with an electrical light. One was placed on her jack-staff, which threw such a bright and powerful light that it lit up the river in front of her for a considerable distance. She came down the river with all her lights burning and when she rounded the bend below Mound City it seemed to the people in Cairo as though she was on fire."

River traffic in 1850 was slow and dangerous. From 1843 to 1870, eighty-one steamboats were destroyed on the Mississippi River, usually following a boiler explosion, and over four thousand persons were killed.<sup>7</sup>

A boat trip could combine business and pleasure as described by the Enterprise of November 11, 1887, "The square bowed, paddle rigged propeller 'J. P. Drinkwater, No. 2' cast loose from her moorings at Greenfield's Landing last Monday





Wagon and mules at the back of the Bridges' farm in the Bridges community.  
Driver unidentified.

Courtesy Avis Muench



**STERNWHEELER "Three States"** carried passengers and cargo between Mississippi County, Cairo and Kentucky in the days before the highway bridges.



morning and with a fair wind, strong current, and plenty of 'elbow grease' she was soon speeding southward. The craft is freighted with 1,350 barrels of potatoes and bound for Baton Rouge and other points in the south. She is commanded by Perry Drinkwater, who is an able navigator. Captain Sam Johnson was at the wheel when the vessel left port. Oath Drinkwater, Perry's brother, goes along as chief clerk and bottle watcher. Bruce Rodney secured first class cabin passage, but was taken sea sick and disembarked at Belmont. Besides the officers there is a crew of seven men, and a fine string band and the trip will undoubtedly prove a pleasant as well as a profitable one."

The first ferry license in the county was granted to Grasberry Griffith in 1845 to cross the river at the "Iron Banks" at Belmont. The rates were as follows: four horse wagon \$3.00, two horse wagon \$2.25, bootmen 50¢, and children 12½¢.<sup>8</sup> At the same term of the county court David Myers was granted a ferry license.

Atcher's Landing, five miles above Bird's Point, was another early shipping place for a large part of the county.

Around 1862 or 1863 Isaac L. Harrell was authorized to keep a public ferry across the Mississippi River at the village of Norfolk to the head of Island No. 1 on the Kentucky shore.

An advertisement in an 1875 paper listed the T. R. Selmer ferry plying between Cairo and Greenfield's Landing.

Most of the trading in the northern part of the county was done at Commerce in Scott County at Price's Landing. Around 1875 it was the biggest corn shipping point, with the exception of New Madrid, Missouri, between St. Louis and New Orleans. It took a day and a half for Concord farmers to make the trip. They usually started from home at 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. to get back after dark the next afternoon. At daybreak, when the store was opened, a string of wagons a mile long would be waiting. Ben Rolwing had a receipt given to his father, John W. Rolwing, September 10, 1875, for corn sold at Price's Landing and signed by Moore and Burns.<sup>9</sup>

For many years a ferryboat operated between Greenfield's Landing, just north of Bird's Point, and 28th Street in Cairo, Illinois, but suspended operations in 1894. The paper stated, "The Ferryboat Golconda, which has been operated under much difficulty in recent years, has suspended operations, Sickman Bros., the proprietors, being unable to satisfy the demands of the Cairo Trust Property, whose landing they use on the Illinois side."

In 1910 the Greenfield ferry between Greenfield and Cairo again began making regular trips with the ferry, J. S. Stephens, which had a capacity of seventeen wagons and three hundred people. In 1811 G. W. Hendricks of Cairo who had operated a ferry, City of McGregor, discontinued service to the Missouri side because he said it was too hard to maintain a landing on

that part of the river.<sup>10</sup>

The ferryboat, William Heil, was put into operation in 1916 after the road to Cairo was graveled and that same year a new ferry was started between Dorena, Missouri and Hickman, Kentucky. In 1925 Robert Coffee was granted a license to operate a ferry between Dorena and Hickman. At that time Swayne Walker was operating a large boat propelled by a gasoline motor.<sup>11</sup>

The road to Bird's Point was the first concrete highway in rural Missouri and was completed in 1921 and as traffic increased the steamer, Kiwanis, started operation in 1923 with the capacity to hold thirty-four automobiles.<sup>12</sup>

Traffic on the State Highway 6 between Sikeston, Charleston, and Bird's Point grew from two hundred cars daily in 1920 to fifteen hundred cars daily in 1926. A later estimate in the same year was that 5,040 cars crossed the river each week. Five boats were ferrying cars across the river, the: Marquand, Kiwanis, Three States, Cary Bird, and a new one added in 1925.<sup>13</sup> The same year Robert Coffee added another ferry, Uncle Steve, for the Dorena-Hickman crossing.<sup>14</sup>

With the completion of the bridge between Missouri and Illinois in 1929 the ferries plying the Mississippi River between Cairo and Bird's Point discontinued service.<sup>15</sup>

The present Columbus-Belmont ferry is situated at the site of the Civil War battlefield at Belmont. There is also a ferry at Dorena that is still in operation.<sup>16</sup>

There continues to be much river traffic for the hauling of goods and in recent years barge tows have superseded the old packet lines as freight movers. Large private corporations operate along the Mississippi River.<sup>17</sup> There are today four large elevators in Mississippi County situated on the banks of the river so grain and beans can be transferred directly to the barges.<sup>18</sup>

### *Railroads*

The first interest in railroad building in Missouri was in the railroad convention of 1836 and due to the enthusiasm generated, the state legislature in 1837 incorporated eighteen railroads in the state. After this generosity on the part of the legislature, the interest in railroads began to decline. There were still too many people within the state who felt that river transportation was sufficient and that the building of railroads was unnecessary.<sup>19</sup>

About 1850, however, the interest in railroad building revived. The population of the state had increased rapidly and there was more production and more demand for goods.<sup>20</sup>

The early residents of Mississippi County fully appreciated the importance of transportation if the county was to prosper and several prominent men worked hard to promote the building of railroads.

On March 3, 1851, the Missouri legislature approved a charter and granted articles of incorporation to the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad, granting the new company the right to build and operate a line of railroad from St. Louis southward to Pilot Knob. Under the charter it also had the privilege of extending its lines southward to the Mississippi River at or below Cape Girardeau. An amendment, which was approved as a special act of legislature, dated March 3, 1857, gave the Iron Mountain the additional right of extending its line to connect with the Cairo & Fulton, or to construct the line of that railroad or to unite or consolidate with them.<sup>21</sup>

On February 9, 1853, an act of Congress was approved, granting to the States of Missouri and Arkansas the right of way and lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the Ohio River, by the way of Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Texas boundary, near Fulton, Arkansas. It was to expire by limitation on February 9, 1863.<sup>22</sup>

About sixty thousand acres of Missouri land had been given by the original Congressional grant, but before the road was completed it was the owner of 570,000 acres of land, given by counties along the line.

On June 9, 1853, a meeting of the citizens of Charleston was held at the courthouse to take some action to secure the railroad. Judge Noah Handy was chosen chairman; and John C. Thomas, secretary. George Whitcomb, Harrison Hough, H. W. Malder, Hardin M. Ward, Alfred M. Bedford, John Bird, and Felix Badger were appointed a committee to enquire into the probable cost of constructing a railroad across the swamp country upon the projected Cairo and Fulton route.<sup>23</sup>

On November 14, 1853, a large convention of delegates from most of the counties of Southeast Missouri, and from Kentucky to Tennessee, was held at Benton, Missouri, to discuss the building of railroads. Resolutions were passed advocating the construction of the Cairo & Fulton road by the way of Bloomfield, and urging the extension of the Iron Mountain road to meet it.

Thus Charleston was destined to become a focal point for two railroads, one south and east, the other south and west.

On December 6, 1853, a mass meeting was held in Charleston to devise ways and means for the survey of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad. It was recommended that the County Court appropriate five hundred dollars for that purpose, but the survey was not made.<sup>24</sup>

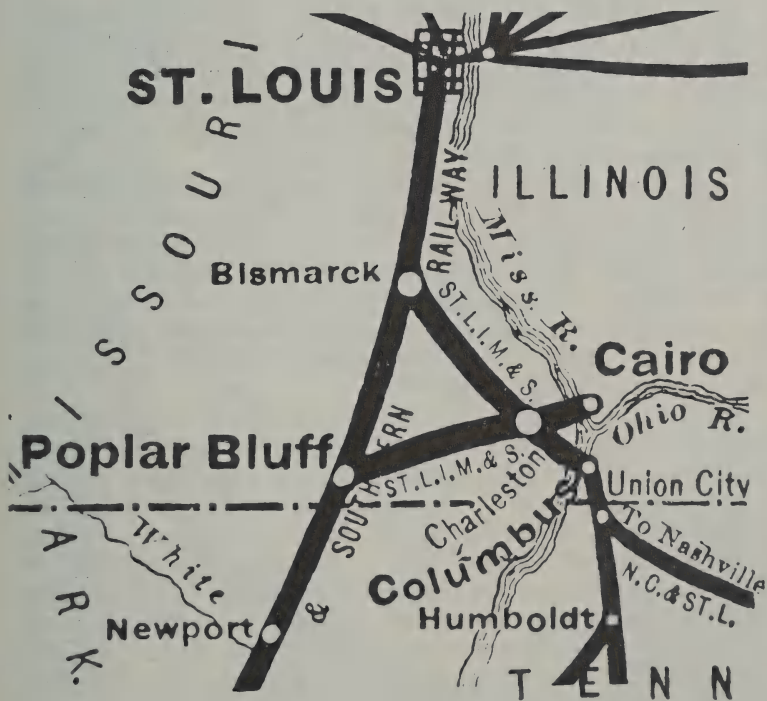
In 1856 Orson Bartlett was elected president of the company and a survey was made beginning at Bird's Point. During the summer of 1857 contracts were let for the grading of the road from Greenfield's Landing to Charleston, and on October 1, 1857, the contractor, Col. H. H. Deal, of Charleston, threw the first shovel of dirt.<sup>25</sup>

The project took form rapidly, due largely to the people of Mississippi County, who pledged \$50,000 to the road and who were largely instrumental in obtaining land grants from the state to aid in financing its construction. The work was pushed forward as rapidly as possible and on April 19, 1859, the last piece of track was laid in Charleston at 6:00 p.m. and the first train drawn by the engine "Sol G. Kitchen" entered Charleston.<sup>26</sup> It was one of the first engines to be operated west of the Mississippi River. The formal opening of the road, however, did not take place until the fourth of July when a barbecue and celebration was held.<sup>27</sup>

Those who had been most prominent in pushing the road forward were Solomon G. Kitchen, Abram Hunter and George Whitcomb, and the two first locomotives were named the "Sol G. Kitchen" and the "Abram Hunter".

The work of construction was continued toward Poplar Bluff, Missouri, until 1861 when about thirty miles were in operation but the onset of the Civil War put a stop to further construction and it was not until well after the close of the war that work was resumed.<sup>28</sup>

Map of St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern R. R. in 1878, when Charleston was the crossing point for lines extending east and west from Birds Point to Poplar Bluff and north and south from St. Louis to Columbus, Kentucky.





During the early part of the war the road operated more or less spasmodically with the two engines and a few passenger and freight cars. It was later converted into a military railroad and finally was wrecked by the conflicting armies. The Federals threw part of the equipment into the river at Bird's Point and the Confederates tore up some of the tracks near Charleston and, after heating them, twisted them about trees to prevent their further use.

When the war closed the road was bankrupt. The company had borrowed \$650,000 from the State of Missouri and had to default on interest payments so the state's lien was foreclosed in 1866. Col. Deal obtained the old rails, the locomotive "Sol G. Kitchen" and other equipment in payment of his lien. The rails were sold to the builders of the Eads Bridge at St. Louis for use in that structure and the locomotive was dismantled and sold for scrap iron.<sup>29</sup>

Through the efforts of Clarence Johnson and E. P. Deal, the bell from the "Sol G. Kitchen" now reposes in the historical museum of the Southeast Missouri University at Cape Girardeau. After the Civil War, Col. Deal kept the bell for several years, then gave it to Thomas Beckwith, who used it for about thirty years as a farm bell. He later gave it to Johnson, who put it to the same use until he expressed a desire in 1921 to donate the relic to the University.

What was left of the Cairo & Fulton was under state control until early in 1867 when it was sold to A. J. McKay, Joseph C. Read, John C. Vogel, and Samuel Simmons, and they in turn conveyed the property to Thomas Allen & Associates. Allen had been the organizer of both the Pacific Railroad and the Iron Mountain and now the Cairo and Fulton.<sup>30</sup>

The Allen group changed the name of the railroad between Bird's Point and Poplar Bluff to the Cairo, Arkansas and Texas Railroad ("Cat Line"). After the name was changed the original line from Bird's Point was rebuilt and Poplar Bluff was reached in September of 1873. Charleston had now gained a place on an east-west railraod. Among many travelers who saw Charleston from the cars of the "Cat" Railroad were President U. S. Grant and Jefferson Davis.<sup>31</sup>

Before the start of the Civil War the Iron Mountain had reached Pilot Knob, but the war put a halt to further construction. At the close of the war under the new name of St. Louis & Iron Mountain, construction was again started in early 1867 on the Belmont branch. It was started at both ends, and on August 14, 1869, the last rail was laid in the middle of a tunnel in Bollinger County, and the first train run through. Over this line through service was maintained between St. Louis and New Orleans and Charleston was an important point. It was over this route that the deluxe passenger trains of the day ran by way of Belmont, Missouri and Columbus, Kentucky.<sup>32</sup>



THE TRANSFER BOATS at Bird's Point are shown at lower left in this engraving of Cairo from the late 1800's.

The locomotive, Abe Hunter, and some of the other equipment had lain idle in Charleston until the St. Louis & Iron Mountain was finished. It was then put into service and also used in the construction of the Belmont Branch of the Iron Mountain. The Abe Hunter was the only locomotive on that line in this part of the state until the engine, Mabel No. 28, was brought across the river from Columbus, Kentucky, when the Belmont Branch was completed in 1869.

Louis Houck wrote, when the Iron Mountain Railroad entered Charleston, "It is of course useless to expatiate on the utility of a railroad. Everybody knows that a railroad is a good institution. It will make this county (Mississippi) the garden of vegetables for St. Louis and Chicago."

With the completion of both the St. Louis & Iron Mountain and the Cairo, Arkansas and Texas lines, the Charleston station was a busy place as they were heavily traveled routes for many years.

In the year 1881 the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad Co. purchased fire-arms and compelled conductors, express-messengers, baggagemen, brakemen and porters on all passenger and mail trains to be armed at all times when on duty, so as to protect the train and passengers, in case train robbers should attack. If the trainmen failed to use them in case of necessity they were to be discharged.<sup>33</sup>

As the railroad business increased another transfer boat was put into service in 1894. The services of a third boat between Cairo and Bird's Point was necessary to handle the increased business. The steamer Marion was put in service to assist the steamers Morgan and Barlow.

During 1895 the two railroads shipped from Charleston 50 cars of cattle and hogs, 215 cars of flour, 156 cars of corn, 188 cars of millfeed, 108 cars of wheat, 35 cars of potatoes, 5 cars of hides, 14 cars of ice and 8 cars of hay. The total receipts for freight received was \$16,500.<sup>34</sup>

William Kerrigan, who lived in Charleston during the time that he was division superintendent of the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, notified the public in a newspaper of the time that he had received "200,000 young catalpa trees from R. Douglas & Sons, Nurserymen, Waukegan, Illinois and that Joseph Lulling, assisted by the railroad company's 'farmer', J. E. Golder would set out said trees near Bertrand." There are still many catalpas in that area.

During this period the Cairo, Arkansas & Texas lines were acquired by the Missouri Pacific Railroad Co. and around 1897 Mr. Kerrigan accepted the position of General Superintendent of the entire Missouri Pacific system. He had, according to a newspaper article, control of more miles of railway than any other General Superintendent in America, or the world either for that matter. Some time later he became Vice-President of the



Missouri Pacific Railroad Co. At the age of forty-four he resigned and moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he had a large railroad construction contract.

Passenger traffic was by no means exclusively cross-country. There were many local stops at sites with names now barely recognizable. Rodney, Hallet, Lubey, Samos, Crosno—to mention a few. This was the way many people came to town to shop, and some high school students, in those days before school busses and good roads, rode the trains. Trains even fit into the community's social life. On gala occasions, parties were organized to go to a ball at the hotel at Belmont or such places.<sup>35</sup> But the early railroads were also the cause of many deaths and injuries from all kinds of accidents to humans and animals.

In 1902 the Iron Mountain Railroad added a dining car on the main line between St. Louis and Texas and this was indeed considered a luxury.<sup>36</sup>

The building of a railroad through East Prairie was started in 1881 but was slow in its completion and required three years before it was ready for use. With the beginning of its history unfolds the development of that town. The Cotton Belt narrow gauge track was laid and the first train to carry passengers came July 3, 1883. B. B. Guthrie, Probate Judge of Mississippi County at that time, was the first passenger. He was plowing corn near the Pryor graveyard west of East Prairie as the train came north. He took out his team, walked to town and rode the train to Paragould, Arkansas, returning on the next train July 5th.<sup>37</sup>

New life was also brought to Wyatt with the completion of the Cotton Belt Railroad in 1882. As many as twelve trains passed through each day. There was no depot until 1911 and boxcars were used for waiting rooms.

In 1905 the Iron Mountain & Cotton Belt Railroad had to abandon Bird's Point as a river crossing. They located their yards and incline at Norfolk, three miles south on the river, whence they could transfer to Wickliffe, Kentucky. From that point they entered Cairo, Illinois, over the Illinois Central Bridge. The constant crumbling away of the river banks at Bird's Point was given as reason for the move.<sup>38</sup>

Many years later Capt. Hacker of Cairo, Illinois, recalled the difficulties encountered with the inclines at Greenfield's Landing and at Bird's Point, "When the Iron Mountain first came to the river (in 1857) it was built into Greenfield's Landing. The transfer was made with a little centerwheel ferryboat called the Nellie Thomas, and into the city of Cairo by hack. This arrangement was much interfered with by low water, caving banks and ice. After it was tried the railroad was built to Bird's Point. While nothing had been attempted at Greenfield except passengers, a wharfboat was placed at Bird's Point and both passenger and freight was handled. The business increased and in the course of time an incline was built and the transfer boat



Julius S. Morgan was put in service. The trouble and expense of maintaining an incline at Bird's Point would make a long story. A great many engineers did crazy things to try to stop erosion and much money was wasted. The Iron Mountain built two or three single track inclines. Then the Cotton Belt came into Bird's Point and built a double track incline, which afterwards was used jointly. In 1908 this incline, the yards and building went into the river, a thousand feet falling into the river in sixty days."<sup>39</sup>

In October of 1920 Pullman parlor-car service was started in response to a petition to the Missouri Pacific Railroad from the Business Men's League of Charleston, but four months later was discontinued because the railroad claimed it was not paying for itself.<sup>40</sup> Six months later the transfer boat service between Cairo and Bird's Point was discontinued.<sup>41</sup>

The first depot in Charleston was built before the Civil War at the Main Street crossing on the site later occupied by the Paul B. Moore residence. After the war and the completion of the Cairo, Arkansas & Texas Railroad line, it was abandoned and a new depot built on Green Street where the Latimer house was built later. When the Belmont Branch of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain reached Charleston in 1868, a union depot was constructed on the site of the present depot.<sup>42</sup> It was a frame building and in 1911 was remodeled. In 1917 that building was moved and the present brick building erected.

Plans and specifications for a \$15,000 building were accepted in June of 1916 and work was started fifteen days later.<sup>43</sup> The foundation and sewer and water connections were completed early in September by workmen employed by the railroad. It was discovered that no plans were included for steam heat so work was delayed until the railroad company agreed to include a basement and furnace which raised the cost to around \$21,000. Bids were accepted in St. Louis on December 4, 1916, and Duncan & Co. of St. Louis were awarded the contract.

Due to delays in receiving materials progress was slow, but by April of 1917 most of the brick work was completed. Work on the depot park on the south side of the station was started in July, but it was November before it was completed. The total cost reached around \$25,000.

There had been talk of a formal opening with a dance as was the custom then but by the time all of the work was completed the weather had turned unseasonably cold and the United States had entered World War I, so no formal opening was ever reported, but in May of 1918 a resolution was passed by the city council expressing the appreciation of the people of Charleston to the Missouri Pacific Railroad for the very attractive depot and grounds.<sup>44</sup>

It was for years the mecca of Sunday afternoon citizens who came down "to let the passenger trains through". There were six



Old Charleston depot on Green Street built shortly after the Civil War.



CHARLEY WARD gathering express "I'm passing by", says the writing on the back of this photo. Taken October 5, 1901, the view is from the northeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets.

trains a day in and out of Charleston and at least ten to twelve railroad families made Charleston their home. While not a scene of bustling passenger traffic in 1939 it was still the only building in Charleston having carefully planned landscaping to any large extent. The depot which has been vacant for several years was deeded to the Mississippi County Historical Society in June of 1971 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in December of 1972.

The opening up of other and more direct routes between New Orleans and Mobile in the south to St. Louis and Chicago in the north had led to diversion of through traffic, both passenger and freight. The completion of the Belmont-Charleston-Bismark line of the railroad bridge at Thebes, had marked the beginning of the end of the freight and passenger ferry service between Cairo and Bird's Point.<sup>45</sup>

In 1924 Charleston lost the roundhouse of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and there began the change which would put the railroads out of the passenger business.<sup>46</sup> After World War I, the movement to "get Missouri out of the mud" began and Mississippi County had many progressive farmers and merchants who could see the advantage of all-weather roads.<sup>47</sup>

As the network of paved roads spread across the country, the railroads had to begin sharing their business with trucks, busses, and automobiles.<sup>48</sup> W. F. Strain and Son of Blodgett started a bus line between Charleston and Cape Girardeau in 1923<sup>49</sup> and two years later bus service to St. Louis and Memphis, Tennessee was started by the Gregory Company of Memphis.<sup>50</sup>

On July 21, 1927, the Missouri Pacific abandoned train service to Belmont Branch except for switching service.<sup>51</sup> Some of the railroad tracks in the county have been completely abandoned, but local railroads still carry a heavy traffic of grain in season.<sup>52</sup>

### *Roads*

The Indians always chose the nearest and easiest route in passing overland. When the white man came he followed the old Indian trails. He knew that these trails would avoid the pathless swamps and insurmountable cliffs. Later, when the white men blazed these trails by chipping the bark off the sides of trees, these roads were called traces.<sup>53</sup>

In the decade of 1845-55 there was a craze for plank road building which was simply a road surface of heavy planks laid across the road on beams or runners. They were unsatisfactory and did not last long. In the low sections of Southeast Missouri, "pole" or "corduroy" roads were built across the swamps. Though they were rough, they kept the traveler from miring in the swamp.<sup>54</sup>

In Mississippi County the building of hard surfaced roads was agitated as early as 1850 by H. J. Deal, and in 1857 the people of Charleston joined the farmers of the county in planning a



plank and gravel road from Charleston to Belmont, a distance of twenty-five miles.

A charter was granted in 1859 and the right-of-way a hundred feet wide was cleared and a part of the grading done with the rest promised by late fall.<sup>55</sup>

Around 1870 George C. Burns, Judge W. T. Marshall and E. L. Brown, Sr., and his father were mainly responsible for laying the first corduroy road across Big Lake. It was done in a very uncertain manner, for two crews were put to work, one on each side of the lake, and they cut through, working toward each other guided mostly by noise that each made by chopping. The logs were "snaked" out by yokes of oxen. A dump was made for almost a half a mile by about fifty Irishmen with spades. The road, or way, was nothing more than a muddy bog and only during a small part of the year could it be crossed and then on horseback.<sup>56</sup>

Around this period there were seven main roads in the county. The road from Charleston to Sikeston started from what was called Pecan Corner and west west for one mile. Then it ran north about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, then a meandering road through the woods and then crossed what was known as Wet Prairie about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the present Highway 60, then started in a southwestern course for one mile until it struck another ridge. On the north side of the present railroad and from Bertrand it went due south on what is known as Long Prairie or Dogwood Ridge for about three miles. Then it turned due west and crossed what was known as St. John's Bayou where there was running water the year round by a sandy ford bottom near what was known as the Mose Canoy Farm, then running in a northwestern course until it struck what is now known as Kingshighway, then into the town of Sikeston.<sup>57</sup>

There were two roads leading to New Madrid. One road went south of Charleston, then in a western course for one mile, then in a southwestern course to the intersection of the road leading west from Charleston. The road leading west from Charleston went two miles west and then practically due south until the intersection. The former road was in what was known as the Bridges settlement and from there it pursued a southern course for about four miles, leading through what was then known as East Prairie country. The road divided then, one leading to the southeast and one to the southwest. The southwestern road went west of what was the Spanish Grant and the other road led on the east side of the Spanish Grant. The road going on the east side branched off at what is now about the town at East Prairie, and then south down along the banks of James Bayou to the town of James Bayou and then on to New Madrid. The other road led from what was known as the East Prairie country on the east side and pursued a southeastern course down through what was then known as the town of James



Bayou on the Mississippi River, and from James Bayou in a meandering way there was a road back to the west that extended into what was known as Sugar Tree Ridge, and from there on to New Madrid.<sup>58</sup>

The road from Charleston to Belmont and Wolf Island went almost south for a distance of about nine miles. One road branched off and going by what was known as O'Bryan's Ridge struck the Mississippi River and leading down to the town of Belmont on the Missouri side of the river, that being the principal crossing of the river for immigrants from Tennessee and Kentucky to the west. The other road branched off above and went down through what was known as Hoe Cake Ridge with one branch leading to Pinhook and another to Wolf Island. Then down the river from Wolf Island through what was known as No. 6 country and down to the crossing of James Bayou and intersecting with the road that went from East Prairie to James Bayou.<sup>59</sup>

There were two roads leading from Charleston to Cairo and Bird's Point. One road went due north from Charleston for two miles and then striking what is known as Big Lake, went in an eastern direction for about ten miles, then in a southeastern direction for about three miles to what was known as Greenfield's Landing. The other road led from Charleston to Cairo, leading due east out of Charleston and went east all the way until it came to what was known as Bird's Point. Then one branch of the road went down to Bird's Point and the other branch up to Greenfield's Landing.<sup>60</sup>

Prior to the days of the railroads in the county, the principal outlet and shipping point was at Price's Landing, ten miles north of Charleston. The road from Charleston to Price's Landing went 1½ miles north of Charleston, then meandering through the woods until it struck what was called Sand Hill, a distance of 4½ miles from Charleston, and then 5½ miles north to Price's Landing, which was a river port.<sup>61</sup>

Newspapers of the late 1800's were filled with accounts of petitions to the county court for roads. One such report stated, "The county court was overrun with petitions yesterday. Some of the petitioners were asking for better roads while others wanted to open up new ones. We are in favor of roads but believe the residents of the townships should build them without running to the county court about them."<sup>62</sup>

By 1913 Mississippi County had two gravel highways and two hundred miles of dirt roads. The papers of 1919 and 1920 were again full of articles advocating better roads and of the progress being made in that direction.

The December 1, 1920 biennial report of the Missouri Highway Department reported that Mississippi County was one of the first to participate in the building of hard roads under provisions of the McCullough-Morgan amendments to the Hawes Law, permitting the federal government to aid the state.

The first project inaugurated, known as 7-A, consisted of 15½ miles of sixteen foot concrete pavement on the state road from Charleston to Bird's Point.<sup>63</sup> A letting was held for the project October 1, 1919, with Roy L. Williams, Wyatt, being the low bidder, the contract price being \$507,777.30. Clyde Swank was engineer for the project. The contractor installed equipment consisting of a steam shovel, a large mixer and an industrial railway plant to haul stone, sand and cement to the work. The road was completed in November of 1921 and in December was finished at the Mississippi River with a cobblestone landing so the steamer, Three States, could transfer traffic to Cairo, Illinois. It was the first stretch of concrete highway in Missouri other than a three mile road between Kansas City and Independence, Missouri.

The second federal aid project approved for the county was the building of 6.95 miles of concrete on the Charleston-Sikeston road. Estimated cost was \$161,451.13 and the road was known as 7-B.<sup>64</sup>

In 1922 the Air Line Special Road District issued \$51,000 in road bonds and three other road districts in the county issued road bonds in smaller amounts.<sup>65</sup>

The St. Louis Star of March 25, 1922, published the following article: "When the Missouri legislature enacted a law to match dollars with any county in the state in the building of permanent highways, the Business Men's League of Charleston, the Chamber of Commerce at East Prairie, good roads boosters at Bertrand and Wyatt and scores of progressive farmers in every school district in Mississippi County, with Thad Snow, a real dirt farmer, as leader, worked as a unit and called on the state for Pay Check No. 1 and Thad Snow, backed by the Business Men's League of Charleston, has continued to make demands upon the state until there is now constructed and under construction fifty-one miles of paved highway from the north end of the county to the south end and from east to west."

The Centennial Edition of the Enterprise-Courier of 1937 stated that Roy Dever and Garret Elkins brought the first automobile in Charleston in the fall of 1908. It was a 1904 Oldsmobile purchased second-hand in St. Louis. The first garage building in Charleston operated between 1911 and 1913 on Missouri Street. Dr. J. B. Penny, Edwin Deal, John L. Dever, and Roy L. Dever were the original owners of a "horseless carriage stable" located just west of the first water pumping station. John L. Dever laid claim to being the first owner of a gasoline engine, the first bicycle owner and the first owner and driver of an automobile in Charleston. Dever died around 1930.

By 1907 Charleston could boast of two automobiles and by 1924 there were 1,340 automobiles in Mississippi County.

Not long after the removal of the transfer boats had effectively removed cross-country travelers from Mississippi County, the Cairo-Bird's Point bridge brought them back. This bridge,

opened in 1929, was for some time the only automobile bridge across the Mississippi River between Memphis and St. Louis.

Preliminary plans included a railroad crossing in the center of the bridge but lack of interest by the railroads caused the change to a highway bridge.

In April of 1926 Congress passed the bill to permit the building of the bridge. Harry E. Bovay of Stuttgart, Arkansas was the promoter and the company was named the Cairo Bridge and Terminal Co. It was estimated by Harrington, Howard and Ashe of Kansas City, Missouri, engineers for the bridge, that a Y bridge connecting Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky could be built at a cost of six million dollars. A later estimate for just the Missouri-Illinois bridge was \$2,250,000. The contract was awarded to J. A. L. Waddell of New York, and work progressed rapidly during 1927.

At the same time a Dorena-Hickman bridge was being promoted and the Missouri Pacific Railroad Co. was willing to build an extension of its Belmont Branch to Dorena if assured of a financial return but the bridge never became a reality. However, the Illinois-Kentucky bridge was approved in 1928 and built.

The Cairo-Bird's Point bridge was built at a cost of \$3,100,000 and was formally dedicated October 18, 1929. Around two thousand people from Mississippi County were present for the occasion. There were various events: a parade, flying stunts, boat races, and a fireworks display and ball that night.

E. E. Bryant recalled the opening some years later, "There was a big show in Cairo to dedicate the bridge. It was moved up the Ohio River on a big barge and anchored out in the river not too far from the Illinois shore. The banks of the river were filled with people. Our delightful thought about it was that now we could cross the river in a matter of a few minutes where previously it took an hour or more to cross on a ferry boat and once in a great while the river got so high or had so much ice that they couldn't operate at all."

The bridge during the first month of its operation afforded a means of crossing a river for 12,300 passenger automobiles, 1,200 trucks, one hundred bicycles, and 22,500 passengers other than the drivers of cars. The Missouri Pacific, which operated a fleet of busses between Cairo and Poplar Bluff, Missouri, was making five trips daily each way.<sup>66</sup> At the end of the first eleven months ending September 28, 1930, the bridge showed a loss of \$31,505, which was attributed to the depression.<sup>67</sup>

In 1941 the Cairo Bridge was offered to Mississippi County for the sum of \$2,400,000. The county court met and stated it would take the matter under consideration. The offer was declined and in 1952 the Missouri and Illinois highway engineers inspected the bridge as a preliminary step toward accepting ownership and operation of it from the Cairo Bridge Commission

when it was freed of tolls the following year. Since 1953 it has been a free bridge.

In 1937 Mississippi County named Wyman Beasley engineer in charge of its extensive road mileage. Beasley served his apprenticeship in Louisiana before taking a position with the Missouri State Highway Department.

Another Charleston resident of the time played a part in the development of highways. Harry G. Simpson was appointed as a member of the Missouri State Highway Commission in January of 1936 and was reappointed in 1937.

U. S. Highway 60 was opened for traffic through Charleston in May of 1938.<sup>68</sup>

Figures furnished by the Missouri State Highway Department as of January 29, 1941, showed the following for Mississippi County.

Concrete	22.610
Concrete and black top	16.548
Black top	7.316
Concrete and gravel	28.538
Gravel	111.462
Total miles	186.474

In 1943 Mississippi County ranked 109th among 114 counties in size, yet ranked eleventh in Missouri in total road mileage with 186 miles of State Highways within its boundaries.<sup>69</sup>

Under the King Bill which was passed by the 1946 State Legislature, Mississippi County submitted six projects for 1947. Five of them were completed and the remaining one was cut off from the program due to the lack of funds available at that time. In 1949 seven projects were submitted and completed.<sup>70</sup>

Today Charleston is by-passed by Interstate Highway I-57 which at the present time is complete from Chicago, Illinois to Sikeston, Missouri, except for a few miles east of Charleston and west of Cairo and the proposed new bridge connecting Missouri and Illinois. Expected to do its part in bringing back the cross-country traveler is the completion of the multi-million dollar Interstate bridge over the Mississippi River. The completion date is tentatively set for late 1976 or 1977.<sup>71</sup>

*Airport*

In 1928 Harry E. Bovay, promoter of the Bird's Point-Cairo bridge, suggested that an airport should be built near Wyatt, Missouri, but it was many years before an airport proposition was put before the voters of the county.

A proposal for an airport bond issue for \$95,000 was turned down by Charleston voters on February 2, 1965. If it had passed the state was to contribute \$10,000 and the Federal Government \$81,000. A short time later Mississippi County voters also turned down an opportunity to create and maintain an airport on a county-wide basis.<sup>72</sup>

In 1972 the Chamber of Commerce and other interested



citizens worked to promote the building of an airport and on August 8, 1972, Mississippi County voters approved a \$50,000 bond issue to pay the local share of land acquisition and construction cost on a \$400,000 airport to serve the entire county. The air facility will be built midway between Charleston and East Prairie on Highway 105, just south of the intersection of Routes C and D. Federal and state grants will pay for the balance of the cost. It will have at least a three thousand foot paved runway, landing lights, a beacon, and a terminal building.<sup>73</sup>

Proponents of the airport say it will help the county attract new industry, as well as serving the general aviation needs of the county's retail, wholesale, and agricultural businesses.<sup>74</sup>

## Chapter VI

### *COUNTY HISTORY AND COURTS*

Mississippi County is situated in Southeastern Missouri, opposite the mouth of the Ohio River, about 165 miles south of St. Louis. It is bounded on the east, north and south by the Mississippi River, and on the west by Scott and New Madrid counties. It has an area of about 415 square miles and in 1970 had a total population of 16,647.

Originally, the bottom lands from the Scott County hills on the north, to St. James Bayou (originally called St. Jacobs Bayou) on the south, and extending westward to Little River, were known as Tywappity bottom, sometimes spelled "Theouapita", "Tiwappaty" or "Tyawapatia". Part of this bottom produced rushes eight feet high, so large and thick that it was difficult for a man to make his way among them. Most of the land was river bottom land and almost level, but with numerous bayous, lakes and swamps and some ridges and elevations.<sup>1</sup>

It was in this bottom of the river that Major Hamtramck (then in command of Vincennes) wrote that in 1788 a village by the name of Ze-wa-pe-ta was formed, thirty miles above the mouth of the Ohio, likely not far from the present town of Commerce, which he says . . . consisted of thirty to fifty families, the settlers all being American and induced by the Spanish officials to come over the river by liberal land grants.<sup>2</sup>

Spain ruled the area then known as the New Madrid Districts and records show that there were several Spanish land grants given. Existing maps, however, record only one Spanish Land Grant in Mississippi County, so named on the map and recorded in the name of Lula Orr.<sup>3</sup>

Legend has it that Raven Bowie of Georgia settled on one of the lakes, Marais des Perches (later known as Fish Lake) on land later owned by Albert Goodin and just north of the present town of Charleston. He became famous as the inventor of the bowie-knife. He was appointed syndic of the Tywappity settlement. With him came his son David Raven, Jr. and his brother, James, who later joined Davy Crockett and lost his life in the battle of the Alamo. The Bowies were slave owners. Their sister, Elsie, who came with them, married Moses Burnet. On the Marais des Perches also settled John Robertson, with his son John Robertson, Jr., who married Polly Friend in 1805, daughter of Charles Friend. Others found on this lake were James and David Trotter around 1801. David, in 1802, seems to have been murdered by the Mascoux Indians. Jean Tanhill prior to 1802 settled on this

lake, Charles Hogens around 1802, and James Jameson also around 1804.<sup>4</sup>

North of Fish Lake was Bayou de Boeuf, and a few miles west of the lake, the prairie known during the Spanish occupancy as "Prairie Carlos" but afterwards among the American settlers became known as "Mathew's Prairie" (Later spelled Matthew's Prairie). It was a favorite pasture of buffalo and the story has been told that in 1781 when Fort Jefferson, across the river from Norfolk, Missouri, was besieged by the Indians, Joseph Hunter crossed the Mississippi River into Missouri, hunted and killed buffalo, and supplied the starving garrison. By 1812 all the buffalo were gone. The first settlers on Bayou de Boeuf were Charles and Joseph Mathews, Louis L'Ardoise, Eli (or Elijah) Fords, and John Johnson, a large slave owner from Kentucky.<sup>5</sup>

Some records name Charles Finley as the first pioneer settler in what is now Mississippi County but little is known about him except that he later sold his claim to Abraham Bird, Sr.

According to the "American State Papers", Nicholas Savage in 1800 was granted a tract of land on the Missouri side three miles below the mouth of the Ohio, near what is known as Bird's Point. In the fall of 1800, 445 arpens of land in the same locality were granted by Henry Peyroux, the Spanish commandant, to John Johnson. In October of the same year Joseph Mathews and Daniel Frazier were granted land on the Tywappity Bottoms and Edward N. Mathews, of Kentucky, located on land on Prairie St. Charles, and later the prairie was named after him.<sup>6</sup>

John, James and Andrew Ramsey, sons of Andrew Ramsey, Sr., a native of Henderson County, Kentucky, who about 1766 located in the Cape Girardeau District, settled near the present site of Belmont in the summer of 1800. In August of 1802 Samuel, William, Jesse, and John Masters settled on grants of land made them by Henry Peyroux on Mathew's Prairie. The same day a grant of land was made to Alexander Milliken in the same neighborhood.<sup>7</sup>

Early settlers became Spanish subjects by oath of allegiance but in 1803, after the Louisiana Purchase, settlers were under American rule and in 1821 after Missouri became a state, Scott County was formed,<sup>8</sup> a portion of which was later to become Mississippi County.

In 1803 William Rush settled on Rush's Ridge but he returned the same year to his home in Kentucky. In 1813 he returned to the area.<sup>9</sup> The Swanks are descendants of the Rushs and for 108 years their tract of land was owned by the family.

Between the years 1802-10 a number of people moved into the locality and a populous settlement was built up between the site of the present town of Charleston and the Mississippi River.

Among the early locaters on land were John Bauinster, Abraham Hunter, John Weaver, and George Hacker (or Hecker).<sup>10</sup>

About 1805 Abraham Bird, who had come from Virginia to Cairo in 1796, crossed the river with his sons and began to make improvements at a place since known as Bird's Point. He remained until the overflow of 1814-15 and then went to Louisiana. A few years later his youngest son, John Bird, took possession of the homestead.<sup>11</sup>

John and Drakeford Gray and Thomas Phillips were pioneers of Wolf Island and William B. Bush of Long Prairie.<sup>12</sup>

Newman Beckwith and his four sons, in 1812, came from Virginia and located on land between Norfolk and Wolf Island and in 1815 Absalom McElmurry settled on Mathew's Prairie. Settlement progressed steadily.<sup>13</sup>

The population of the county in 1810 was not over one hundred people and the increase was slow until 1830.

About 1830 Humphreys Warren settled at the site of the present town of Charleston.<sup>14</sup>

In the year 1835 Joseph Twilly Russell and wife, Patience Ann Russell, came by wagon to Missouri from Quantico, Maryland, and homesteaded 160 acres of land in Mathews Prairie in the area later to be the Russell School District.

In 1836 the first town, Norfolk, was laid out by James Ramsey, William Lester, and others. The following year the town of Charleston was platted and up to 1845 these were the only villages in the present county.<sup>15</sup>

The first marriage ceremony performed in what was later Mississippi County, was at the home of Edward Mathews and the contracting parties were Absalom McElmurry and Elizabeth Gray.<sup>16</sup>

The first trading post was near Bird's Point in 1820, but by 1841 Richard Beckwith had opened a store about 1½ miles northwest of Charleston.

In 1844 the Missouri Legislature passed a bill authorizing the formation of Mississippi County, but it was not until February 14, 1845, that the separation from Scott County was made. Mississippi County was then divided into five townships: Tywappity, Mississippi, St. James, James Bayou, and Wolf Island. In June of 1847 Ohio township was formed and in June of 1858 Long Prairie township was formed from parts of Mississippi and St. James Townships.<sup>17</sup>

The first marriage recorded in Mississippi County was that of James Kelly and Elizabeth Counsel on March 23, 1845, with James Hush, Justice of the Peace, officiating. A total of twenty-three wedding licenses were issued the first year of the county's existence.<sup>18</sup>

Soon after Mississippi County was formed the following commissioners were appointed: C. P. Fulenwider, of Cape Girardeau; Adrian B. Owen, of Stoddard County; and Thomas



Neille, of New Madrid. They were duly qualified to select a county seat and chose Charleston. They were paid fifty-four dollars each for their services.

The county court was organized in Charleston on April 21, 1845, and was composed of William Sayres, presiding justice, and Absalom McElmurry and James M. Overton, associate justices. The following constables were then appointed: John A. Gardner, Wolf Island Township; Peter W. Mott, James Bayou Township; and Samuel D. Kennedy, Tywappity Township.<sup>19</sup>

The first Grand Jury in 1845 was composed of Charles W. Moore, foreman; Evan Shelby, William Shelby, Thomas S. McElmurry, Tepo Davis, Howell Brewer, Felix Harrison, James Braswell, Osburn Simmons and William Woodard.<sup>20</sup> Only one indictment was returned. This was against William Dunham for shooting with intent to kill.<sup>21</sup>

The first session of the circuit court for Mississippi County was held in September, 1845, by Judge John D. Cook. For several years court was held in the Methodist Church.<sup>22</sup>

The first dramshop licensed by the county court in 1845 ordered that, "H. S. Randol pay the state a tax of \$5 for keeping a dram shop". In March of 1846 Banister T. Unsell was licensed to keep a dramshop at Norfolk.

For the first five years after the county was formed no effort was made to erect any public building with the exception of the Circuit Clerk's office which was completed in 1846.<sup>23</sup>

Around 1837 it had been decided to erect a jail on a lot tendered by John Sheppard but he withdrew his offer and nothing was done until 1850, when the contract was awarded to William Sayres.<sup>24</sup>

On March 25, 1846, John and Dorcas Sheppard deeded land for a courthouse as shown in Deed Book 1, page 152-55. This is the property on which the present courthouse is now located.

Two years later, in 1852, a frame courthouse was erected by James T. Russell. John Rodney was allowed fifteen dollars for locating the courthouse and surveying same. Up to this time sessions of the county court had been held in the store house of Henry G. Cummins. After the courthouse burned in 1890 rented buildings were used for several years.

The census of 1856 showed a white population of 3,390 and a slave population of 914, making a total of 4,304 for the county. Towns listed at the time were Charleston, Bird's Point, Ohio City, Rodney's Landing, Norfolk, Lucas' Bend, Belmont, Wolf Island, St. James, and Bertrand.

The almanac of 1859 gives the following description, "East Prairie and Long Prairie are both fine tracts of land, as also is Shelly's Ridge, Rushs' Ridge, and the country back of Belmont, indeed, the whole county is susceptible of being made a perfect garden - the soil being a rich loam which can be rendered dry in the wettest seasons by a little drainage and rich enough to

produce every thing that can mature in this latitude. Mr. Bird has a steam saw mill at Bird's Point. Messrs. William and Thomas Chambers have a steam saw and grist mill near the railroad, about seven miles from the river, at the Cypress city station. Harrison & McElmurry have a steam saw mill at Belmont. W. A. Keyser has another back of Wolf Island, said to be the best saw in southeast Missouri. Mr. Miller has one below East Prairie. Mr. Beckwith has a water mill on James Bayou, and there are two steam saw mills at St. James. Messrs. Scoville and Thompson are putting up a steam saw mill west of Long Prairie with which will be connected a grist and flouring mill, lath machine, etc. Mr. Kipp has a planing mill at St. James, and there is a large Steam Shingle Manufactory back of Belmont, owned by some gentlemen in St. Louis. A flouring mill is needed in Charleston as a large amount of wheat is raised annually in Matthew's Prairie."

The first indebtedness of the county was incurred in 1864 when bonds to the amount of \$12,500 bearing ten per cent interest, were issued to pay bounties to volunteer Civil War soldiers.<sup>25</sup> The population of the county in 1870 was 4,982 and its taxable wealth was valued at \$1,108,652.

In June of 1872 eight thousand dollars was appropriated to build a new jail, and F. A. Randol was appointed to superintend its construction.<sup>26</sup>

According to the County Recorder's office there is no record of a County Prosecuting Attorney prior to 1871 and a circuit attorney who followed the Circuit Judge throughout his circuit performed the necessary duties of such an office. The office of County Clerk, Circuit Clerk and Recorder were all combined and George Cravens was the first to serve in that capacity in 1845.

Most of the indictments before the war were for minor offenses, and those were numerous. At the October term, 1849, forty-nine indictments were returned. Of these thirty-one were for gaming and playing cards on Sunday, two for keeping a gaming boat, six for selling merchandise and liquor without a license, and nine for failing to work on the roads. The first person sent to the penitentiary from the county was William Gatewood, who pleaded guilty to a charge of grand larceny in November, 1854 and was sentenced to two years imprisonment.<sup>27</sup>

The bids for building a Probate Office on the northwest corner of the courthouse square were opened in November of 1879, and the contract awarded to Joseph G. Russell for the sum of \$600.

The first legal execution in the county took place on December 8, 1882, when Alfred Sanders, a colored man, was hanged for the murder of another colored man, Moses Wing, on the night of November 19, 1881.<sup>28</sup> R. B. Smith defended him. Smith later moved to Montana and in 1896 was elected Governor of that state.

A second execution took place on April 6, 1883. On that day Howard Underwood, colored, was hanged for the murder of his mistress, Belle Lucas, on August 6, 1881. He committed the deed in a fit of jealousy, and made his escape to Illinois. He was captured about a year later, brought back, tried and sentenced to be hung on September 22, 1882. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, where the judgment was affirmed, and the date of execution fixed at December 29, 1882. A rehearing was obtained, but there was no change in the decision of the court.<sup>29</sup>

By 1881 the county was rapidly filling up with Kentucky and Tennessee immigrants. A newspaper account of October 1, 1881, tells of three wagon loads settling in Long Prairie Township, "in good circumstances and had good wagons and fine stock".

The assessed valuation of taxable property in the county for 1881 was as follows: land \$947,110, personal property \$403,965.

About the same time the hunters, trappers, and fishermen began to move out as the right-of-way choppers came through the forest preparing the bed for the railroads. A paper of 1880 tells of a large black bear being seen near Henson's Station and in 1882 of a panther that had been seen in the county but they were soon to disappear just as the buffalo had.

One of the old time hunters and trappers of Mississippi County was Pat Kelly who maintained a camp on Big Lake, located opposite land later owned by A. V. Goodin. At one time he trapped a white mink and sent the pelt to Queen Victoria of England as a gift. In return the Queen sent him a fine gun with two sets of barrels.<sup>30</sup> He was an Irish Fenian and was involved in the rioting in Dublin in 1867. He was a natural born mechanic, a ship carpenter by trade, and a great hunter and fisher. He was one of Morgan's guerrilla during the Civil War and made quite a reputation. He stood six feet three inches tall, was unusually strong, a man of the warmest hospitality, and was considered the greatest wing shot in the west. After the war he settled in Kentucky, opposite Cairo, and finally pitched his tent at Big Lake in Mississippi County and established what became famous as Pat Kelly's camp. After having sheltered people from all parts of the world he gave shelter to a party of squatters en route to Arkansas. They thought he had some money, and to secure it they killed him with a flatiron.<sup>31</sup>

Early settlers dug for Indian relics and later Civil War souvenir. On occasion a cache of money was unearthed by some lucky individual. In 1884 William Laplante of James Bayou found \$900 in silver coins buried on a farm on Sandy Ridge. It was believed that James Settles had buried it there before the Civil War. After Settles died a search was made and the money found covered with roots which had grown over it.<sup>32</sup>

In 1893 J. H. Turley, manager of the Charleston Dairy, located on the Moore farm one mile south of town, while driving

a pump struck an iron box, which was dug out of the ground and after examination was found to contain gold coins from five up to fifty dollars, which indicated that the box contained not less than \$100,000. The box was a safe and took three men to prize it out of the ground. Indications were that it had been buried for scores of years, probably around 1860. The latest date of any of the coins examined by those present was 1858 and some dated back as far as 1832.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to the floods, earthquakes and storms the early settlers had many other hazards to contend with. Numerous fires often occurred from the explosion of the coal oil lamps used and frequent accidents were caused by run-away horses and the use of primitive farm equipment. Many accidents and deaths also occurred in connection with the early railroads and steamboats.

Those escaping these calamities often succumbed to a variety of diseases listed as pneumonia, spinal meningitis, diarrhea and many undiagnosed ailments which were usually reported as flux or congestion of the stomach. Infant mortality was high and many adults died or were killed while still in their prime. These were common to all localities, but in the swampy lands of Southeast Missouri the thing most dreaded were the epidemics of yellow fever and typhoid fever.

The yellow fever epidemic of 1878 started in New Orleans but spread to Memphis, Tennessee, and then to nearly all localities in the lower Mississippi Valley. The Enterprise of July 24 of that year printed a dispatch from Memphis which stated, "The weather is oppressively hot and eighteen new cases of fever and six deaths reported to the board of health. The epidemic is spreading all over the city and the terrified inhabitants are deserting the stricken city. Five hundred left on the 24th, two hundred fifty of whom took passage on the steamer Ouachita Bell for St. Louis."

This was enough to cause near panic in Southeast Missouri with numerous cities enforcing a rigorous quarantine. In Charleston, the City Council met and appointed a Board of Health, consisting of Dr. S. D. Golder, Dr. J. H. Hess and G. W. Kenrick. The newspaper published a report that a resolution was passed by the council prohibiting the receipt of all freights, mail, and express matter coming from the south until further notice.

George H. Bridges was appointed health officer and instructed to meet all trains and prevent the stopping off of persons from yellow fever districts.

A proclamation was issued by Dave Black, Mayor protem of Charleston, ordering all citizens to, "put their premises and the streets in front of their respective residences and business houses in a thorough sanitary condition at once, by cutting down weeds and removing all rubbish and offal from about the premises."

The St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway also began enforcing strict quarantine regulations and M. V. Golder



and Jesse Bird were appointed quarantine guards.

In 1881 the paper informed all paupers to report to Alfred Sigler who had charge of the county poor farm and the county would pay the expenses.<sup>34</sup>

In 1892 a new poor house was completed by S. Hollingworth and his sons and the paper carried the notice, "On Friday the Mississippi County Court made an order to sell the county poor farm three miles west of town and comprising 160 acres, to the highest and best bidder on Saturday the 16th of December at the court house door. The above farm is not the one that is now occupied by the county poor."<sup>35</sup>

The county poor farm at that time contained eight paupers at a cost of about one dollar per week each for board and clothing.<sup>36</sup>

In a few years there was also to be a pest house because of the small-pox epidemic of 1895. Meetings were postponed and many families left town. Several towns in the area quarantined themselves against Charleston. It was then that Aldermen Sigmon and Ogilvie were appointed to secure a building suitable as a pest house.

The paper reported, "The scarcity of stove and heating wood have caused several of our people to be without a fire lately. Our farmers are afraid to bring wood to town on account of the small-pox epidemic."

Dr. Alonzo Barker, a well liked doctor, died of the dreaded disease but Malcolm V. Golder, a newsdealer and book agent, who had been treated by Dr. Barker, although sent to the pest house, survived. Many others were not so fortunate.

Perhaps the many hazards and diseases of the time accounts in part for the fact that in 1897 there were forty-four names on the roll of physicians and surgeons in Mississippi County.

There was another major epidemic of yellow fever in 1897 and a news item made the statement. "The health of the people hereabouts is, and has been for some time, rather bad. Remittent and intermittent fever seems to cause most of the trouble. Perhaps the extraordinary crop of watermelons raised this year may account for a part of the sickness".

However, the settlers still firmly believed in the opportunities in the county and that more inhabitants would benefit the county. With this in view an Immigration Society was organized in 1879 and many prominent citizens spent time advertising and promoting immigration to Mississippi County. The August 9, 1879 Enterprise printed an article stating, "Through the application of Hon. Messer Ward, President of the Citizens Immigration Society of this county, Mississippi County has been allotted space in the Seventy Cincinnati Industrial Exposition. Parties having products which they wish to exhibit are requested to bring in same as soon as possible."

During the pioneer period, Missourians, like all other frontiersmen, took advantage of every opportunity for getting together to have fun. Social celebrations frequently arose from work occasions.<sup>37</sup> Log-rolling was one such occasion. A paper of 1880 made note of the fact that Thomas Pate rolled logs with the assistance of twenty-two hands. They put up 140 large logs in heaps in one day. One contributor to the paper expressed regret, "We acknowledge receipts of invitations to attend numerous old fashioned log-rollings in the neighborhood, but are sorry to say were unable to assist at a single one."<sup>38</sup>

In addition, the farmer made trips to town or visited his neighbor; he and others gathered at spelling and quilting bees, at county fairs and political barbecues, at religious camp meetings, weddings and funerals.<sup>39</sup>

Barbecues in earlier times were in general more of a commercial promotion, well advertised and featuring pork and other meats cooked on grills in the open over dug earth trenches. The attractions at some barbecues included a merry go round, games of skill, athletic contests, and balloon ascensions.

Transportation in and around Charleston in the 1890's was by saddle horse, horse and buggy, team and carriage, or team and wagon. Livery hacks, seating six to twelve persons, were operated by town livery stables to and from picnic grounds close to town, the usual fee round trip being twenty-five cents.

Excursions were popular and an advertisement of 1880 read, "A general invitation is extended to all. Trains will stop at Bertrand and Sikeston for all who desire to attend. Nice fishing and sports of all kinds. Excursion train will leave the Iron Mountain depot, in this city (Charleston), at 7 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. Committee arrangements: Louis La Montague, Dave Black, and Bertie Bottenstein. Tickets for adults, round trip, 75¢. Tickets for children under 12, 25¢"

Fishing trips to Brewer's Lake and other lakes in the county were extremely popular. Some were stag parties and some for mixed company, with chaperons, cooks and entertainers usually included in the excursion. The lakes were real fisherman's and hunter's paradises. A trip to a lake took all day in a wagon with the camping and fishing usually lasting a week or ten days.

A favorite "watering spot" for some residents was Siloam Springs in Howell County, which was purchased by W. T. Marshall and J. H. Moore in 1896 for \$1,350.<sup>40</sup>

As would be expected, ball games were popular. The Charleston Browns played all the towns in Southeast Missouri and were actively supported. The team of 1885 included: John Russell, Will Ogilvie, Jack Ogilvie, Elbert Shelby, Simon Loebe, Hampton Wade, George Bridges, Hance Rouse, Morton Brown, George Whitcomb, and Everett Weatherly.

Dramatic productions and school exercises were well attended. Ice cream and church socials were popular. Ice cream

was still such a treat that the following ad was run in the May 8, 1880 paper, "Ice cream all day Sunday at Dr. Blacks".

At least sixty-one circuses and menageries toured rural Missouri before the Civil War. During the 1850's Missourians living near either the Mississippi or the Missouri rivers could see at least one circus each summer, and in several seasons they could take their pick of two or three sawdust shows.<sup>41</sup> By the late 1880's circuses were visiting Charleston, including the world famous Ringling Brothers in 1892. They set up in a field on what is now the corner of Commercial and Eighth Streets.

The paper of July 17, 1894, announced that a tent for the Sam P. Jones lecture on the following day would be pitched in the vacant lot just opposite the Ed P. Deal residence.<sup>42</sup>

Many other traveling groups visited Charleston and surrounding towns such as minstrels, drama and stage groups and all kinds of wandering performers hoping to make enough to keep them on the road. Some issued tickets, but many were satisfied with donations.

The first County Fair was established early in the 1870's by Col. Henry Deal and a Mr. Courtway. The early fairgrounds was located at the then southwest city limits. Exhibits for the most part consisted of live stock, agricultural products and horse racing with pavilion, stables, booths, and race track. They continued through the 1870's and early 1880's and for reasons now unknown, passed out of existence.

During the early 1900's Mississippi County, in conjunction with Scott and New Madrid counties, organized and sponsored tri-county fairs. These too are no longer held.

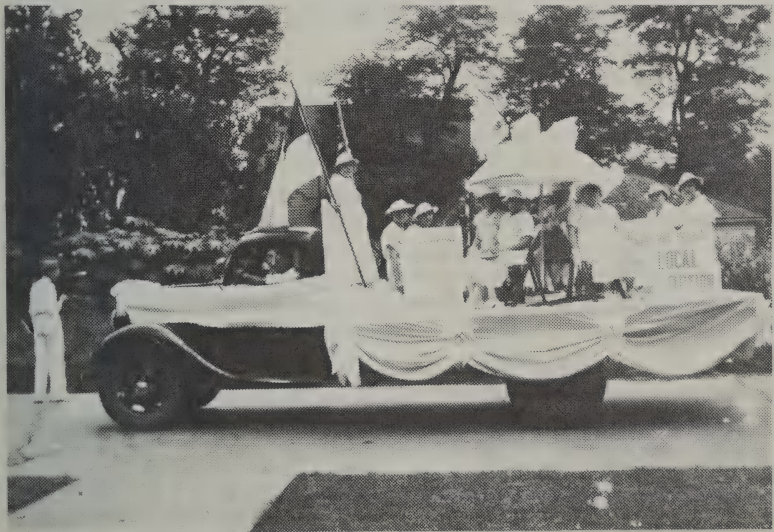
One of the movements which had a place in the history of Missouri was known as the Wood Local Option movement. In 1887 the General Assembly passed a law giving counties the right to determine for themselves whether intoxicating liquors should be sold within their limits. At that time campaigns were made by the temperance people in a number of southeast counties and part of them complied with the terms of the law and voted against saloons. On appealing to the Supreme Court, however, the law was declared defective and the action of the counties null and void. At a later time, however, the General Assembly passed another law providing for local option elections. By its terms the county could vote, and each town within the county having a population of more than 2,500 could hold an election separate from the rest of the county.<sup>43</sup>

Many opinions on both sides of the issue were aired in the newspapers of that time. The editor of the Charleston Enterprise was strongly opposed to saloons and printed many articles of his own and those of contributors who agreed with his viewpoint. Martin stated, "Nine out of every ten in this township endorse the action of the Enterprise in regard to ridding Charleston of houses of ill-fame, gambling and saloons".





W. C. T. U. float of 1908 favoring Local Option.  
 Courtesy Mrs. Dee Jennings



W. C. T. U. float at a later date favoring Local Option.  
 Courtesy Mrs. E. E. Bryant



Not all editors were opposed to saloons and the editor of the Charleston Democrat apparently did not think they should be closed. Some people felt that the closing of the saloons would result in less money for the community and necessitate some other form of income.

The Jackson Cash-Book newspaper editor viewed the fight between the two Charleston editors with humor as he printed, "The two editors at Charleston are fighting over the whiskey bottle. One wants the bottle in order to break it and the other wants it in order to cool himself off these hot summer days".

Tywappity Township did vote to close its saloons and in the Enterprise of November 11, 1887, Martin was able to report, "The Charleston saloon closed its doors last Wednesday in accordance with the provisions of Local Option Law. It is understood that a lunch room will be established in the same place". A Bertrand contributor was quite gleeful as she wrote, "Since the saloon has been closed we have a quiet town. Ladies can now go to the store without being annoyed by a lot of drunken men".

The newspapers, however, continued to report many instances of drunken behavior and in a few years most communities were again "blessed" with saloons. On February 10, 1893, the paper reported, "Four attempts to locate a saloon on Main Street within the past twelve months has proved fruitless. Two of Charleston's capitalists own the largest portion of that block and have vowed their intention to keep saloons off that street."

Mississippi County went dry December 11, 1903, by less than one hundred votes, the paper stating, "Charleston is a dry town today, the last saloon, that of Messrs. Travis & Co., having closed its doors. Now, let's all be good."<sup>44</sup>

In December of 1908 a petition containing the requisite number of signers was again presented to the County Court asking that an election be held. January 16, 1909, was set as the day of election for the county and January 11 for the City of Charleston.<sup>45</sup> The Local Option election was held and in Charleston the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping out saloons in order to "Make the Town Safe for Boys." In fact, every precinct in the county voted to keep Local Option.

One of the largest early land deals in the county was made in 1892 through F. J. Peter of Charleston. Five thousand three hundred acres of timber land  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile northeast of Hainley's Switch was sold to Worst, Binkerhoff and Weismen of Freemont, Ohio, for the sum of \$42,000.<sup>46</sup>

The next year the Depression of 1893 affected Mississippi County and now the papers were reporting the closing of businesses. The Charleston Ice Factory closed after losing five hundred dollars during the season of 1892-93. The jewelry store owned by D. Rusk closed and others followed. As the paper said, "The year of 1893 will long be remembered as the dull year."

The following year business began to improve and by 1895 things were pretty well back to normal. A paper of that year stated, "Uncle Louis Montjoy, of Wolf Island, is the wealthiest colored man in the county, being worth in money and real estate to the amount of \$35,000. He came to Mississippi County in 1865 with only a team and now has 600 acres of good land."<sup>47</sup>

In 1895 bids were let by the county court to contractors to erect an asylum on the poor farm. Mississippi County had seven insane people in the asylum at Fulton and it was believed that the county could take care of them a great deal cheaper at home. It was costing \$1,160.32 for a year at the Fulton Asylum.

As early as 1893 the Hibbard Herald was agitating to move the county seat to Hibbard (East Prairie), "The Charleston papers are giving their readers the same old gag, 'Build a court house'. The people will never build a court house at Charleston, but will move the county seat to Hibbard where the enterprising citizens propose to build and donate to the county a court house free from any tax, whatever, from the people of this county."

One Charleston paper seemed to agree, "It looks as if the Herald is correct, as our old boggy capitalists won't give a cent towards building a courthouse and besides use money to influence voters to vote against the proposition. We would like to see a nice courthouse built some place in the county, and if our people don't build soon we say good for Hibbard's enterprise, and hope the citizens of that locality will down us."

Three years later, in 1896, the question of the location of the county seat was finally brought before the voters of the county. The following articles presented the issue.

*Enterprise August 24, 1896*

"On the last day of the regular term of the Mississippi County court a petition was presented to it praying said court to submit to the voters of Mississippi County the question of changing the county seat from Charleston to the village of Hibbard. The petition contains some five or six hundred names, and we presume they are all voters. The law requires a petition of one fourth of the qualified voters of the county, and it seems this one contains the sufficient number. Owing to the fact that the court was on the eve of adjourning the petition was laid over until the September meeting, when the court will doubtless order the question to be submitted to the voters at the regular election in November."

*Enterprise October 24, 1896*

"The bet around Charleston is two to one that East Prairie does not poll 800 votes for the county seat removal."

*Enterprise October 26, 1896*

"When Charleston was originally selected as the county seat, valuable donations were made to the county of lands and other property on the faith that this should be the permanent Seat of Justice of the county for all time to come, and if the



THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE as it looked before the 1938 fire which destroyed the dome.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy

county seat were to be now changed the county would lose thousands of dollars worth of valuable property, some of it would revert to the heirs of the former owners, and others would be entirely worthless to the county, and it is more than likely that other great damages, losses and expenses would fall on the county, as the laws of the state guaranteed to all persons who invested in property in the county seat, that if the location should ever be changed they should sustain the loss. The center of population of the county is Charleston. This town has a population of two thousand or more, Hibbard has scarcely three hundred."

"The geographic center is about five miles southeast of Charleston, and nine miles northeast of Hibbard. The change of location would necessitate heavy taxes for years to come and the issuing of large bonds. Hibbard is remote from the center of business, surrounded by woods and swamps, and is very inconvenient of access to lawyers, litigants and witnesses who would necessarily attend court. They couldn't be accommodated at hotels and boarding houses. The county would have to buy not less than fifty acres of land, which would doubtless cost a fabulous price."

"Now, why should the change be made, and who would be benefitted: No good reason can be given for the change and no one would be benefitted except the few people owning property



in or near Hibbard. The people of the county at large would not be inconvenienced and would beyond any doubt be heavily taxed for years to come, while the property owners and citizens of Charleston would many of them be greatly damaged.”

The voters elected to keep the county seat in Charleston and in 1900 the present courthouse was started. The architect was J. B. Legg of St. Louis and it was accepted by the county court on May 4, 1901. On May 7, 1901, the old brick building on the courthouse square that had been used as the office of the probate judge was torn down.

Virtually the entire dome of the courthouse collapsed in 1938 during a fire which started around the big clock in the dome. Water stood ankle-deep in the courthouse after the fire with damage first estimated at between thirty and forty thousand dollars. The adjuster placed the damage at \$7,005.<sup>48</sup> The original clock was destroyed, but the bell was still usable. A new clock was installed when repairs were made as a part of a WPA project and the old bell was restored to its former position. The bell had been erected by the city in 1902 and an inscription on it states that the officials in charge included: Mayor, R. L. Shelby; City Attorney, O. W. Joslyn; and aldermen, F. J. Wilkinson, A. Irvin, J. B. Cox, Sam Ogilvie, and R. L. Oliver.

Rural Free Delivery service started March 1, 1901, on Route 1, with Walter S. Rowe delivering the mail on horseback. He carried mail for thirty-two years. In 1903 a second route was started between Charleston and Bridges with Ed “Windy” Russell as the first carrier. He served for seventeen years and was succeeded in 1920 by Arson H. Kuehner. In April of 1904 a third rural route was established. It was for the convenience of the Big Lake and Fish Lake neighborhoods and was nineteen miles long. Other routes were added and by 1910 the population of the county was 11,837.

A newspaper of 1930 reported on a presumably thriving business in the county, “There are more places where stills are located in Mississippi County, if reports even border on accuracy, than there were machine gun nests in the whole world war. And that’s the reason why moonshine has dropped to \$2 per gallon.”<sup>49</sup>

In 1936 Mississippi County was well provided for by the PWA and WPA, with around \$420,000 approved by the Federal Government for the employment of five hundred workmen. Below are the projects approved and the sum allocated.

Sidewalks . . . . .	6,685
School buildings . . . . .	23,161
Landscaping, planting . . . . .	8,801
Bridges and viaducts . . . . .	8,395
Roadside improvement . . . . .	5,765
Recreational facilities . . . . .	18,741
Improve public grounds . . . . .	3,328



Improve recreational facilities . . . . .	30,944
Repair schools . . . . .	28,991
Repair public buildings . . . . .	7,093
City streets, 14 miles . . . . .	26,903
Public lighting extension . . . . .	18,230
Sewer construction and repair . . . . .	46,400
Previously reported . . . . .	85,794 <sup>50</sup>

The following year Wyatt was approved for \$22,356 to construct streets and East Prairie \$4,550 to improve streets.<sup>51</sup>

In the fall of 1937 a \$45,000 bond issue was approved by the Mississippi County voters for the construction of a new and modern jail. The court in March of 1938 decided on a compromise location for the jail. One faction wanted it located on the north wall of the courthouse and another at the site of the old jail across the east street from the courthouse.<sup>52</sup> It was decided that it be a 39 x 70 foot structure and located on the east wall of the courthouse. The job of drafting the final plans were given to architect Guy Hall. It was built to accomodate seventy-two prisoners and was completed in March of 1939.<sup>53</sup>

The Charleston jail which had been built shortly after the Civil War and which had been condemned by at least a dozen local grand juries, was razed in 1941 and the city prisoners were placed in the county jail.

By 1938 major epidemics of the dreaded yellow fever, typhoid fever, and small pox were past but the mortality rates for preventable diseases were still exceedingly high in the Missouri Lowlands. With very few exceptions, year after year, in all seven counties, the death rates for malaria, typhoid, pulmonary tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrhea and enteritis, and the infant mortality rate were greater than the state average for Missouri. Occasionally the rates were as high as twenty times the state average. Generally low living standards and the ignorance and poverty of the sharecroppers and tenants were the apparent cause of many deaths.<sup>54</sup>

Mississippi County has never had a hospital but does have two rest homes—one at Charleston and one at Bertrand. Today, in 1972, the county has two chiropractors, four doctors of medicine, seven doctors of osteopathy, one optometrist, two dentists, and two veterinarians.

A history of the county would be incomplete unless mention is made of the Missouri Sharecropper roadside demonstrations of 1939. The "Croppers Revolt" as it was named took place in the Missouri "Bootheel" on January 10, 1939. It was not a Negro protest (although ninety percent of the demonstrators were black) but a protest against the economic deprivation and injustice of the sharecropping system. Most of the croppers who participated in the demonstration claimed they had been evicted from their farms at the end of 1938 by landlords who were switching from sharecropping to day labor in order to gain

the cropper's share of the New Deal's AAA parity payment.<sup>55</sup>

The demonstration was led by Owen H. Whitfield, a Negro minister and union organizer. The croppers camped peaceably along the roadside for several days, in rain and freezing weather and got the publicity Whitfield sought.<sup>56</sup>

No effort was made to interfere with the traffic on the highways or to obstruct activity of any kind. The majority of the croppers simply moved immediately to the side of the road and began to make camp. Most camps had a stove, a few pieces of ragged furniture, pots and pans, some bedding, occasionally a dog, but all were without permanent shelter of any kind.<sup>57</sup>

This event was front page news on many papers around the country. The Enterprise Courier maintained that not more than ten per cent actually were evicted from homes and the Globe Democrat that court records of Mississippi County showed only one eviction suit which had not been tried.<sup>58</sup>

Mississippi County landowners met in the Circuit Court room and presented their side of the problem before a group of newspaper men and press association representatives. A resolution was adopted asking for an official investigation.<sup>59</sup>

Gains from the demonstration were modest. However, only after the 1939 demonstration did the FSA expand its program in the Bootheel. Moreover, after the strike, sympathizers in St. Louis helped to raise money for the camp at Harviell, and later helped finance the purchase of the Delmo Homes for their occupants.<sup>60</sup>

Over the years various companies have leased land in the county for the purpose of drilling for oil or gas. J. P. Simmons of Charleston was one of the first to promote organizing a company that was to drill for oil, or if no oil was found, an artesian well. The drilling was done in the courthouse yard in 1916. Reports in the papers aroused considerable interest and three months later the Universal Oil Co. of St. Louis secured a lease for five years on 160 acres owned by Frank Sterett, one mile north of the city limits. They proposed drilling for oil or gas.

In 1920 five thousand acres in the county were leased near Bertrand by the Missouri Development Association of Sikeston for the same purpose.

In 1927 F. H. Landers of El Dorado, Arkansas, leased four thousand acres near Wyatt in order to drill for oil.<sup>61</sup>

In 1962 John Carson, president of the Petrolina Corp. of Mt. Sterling, Illinois, visited the county to consider two sites as possible locations for an oil well. One was on the Bob DeLaney farm just east of Charleston and the other on land owned by the Hillhouse brothers.<sup>62</sup>

In the later part of 1965 the Mammoth Producing Corp. of Clair, Michigan began drilling at Big Oak Farm about six miles southeast of East Prairie. The target in this area of few previous holes was 6,400 feet. It was one in a series of six the operator

planned to drill in Mississippi, New Madrid, and Scott counties. This wasn't the first drilling in the Bootheel but supposedly it was the first based on seismic exploration.

Matters became exciting when a few months later the papers reported that there was definitely oil in Mississippi County but the drilling area was roped off and visits were no longer permitted in the immediate area. Two other drilling operations in the county were also under way.

In February of 1966 a well was started in the Pinhook area by the Mammoth Corporation but in March the drilling was halted and the first well plugged. Mammoth officials met but their decision was not made public. A month later all the wells were plugged and abandoned.<sup>63</sup>

The most recent drilling took place in December of 1972 when a wildcatter digging rig did exploratory drilling for gas and oil in the Pinhook region on land belonging to Sam Jones. The Rush & Williams Drilling Co. of Olney, Illinois, under the auspices of the Trans American Oil & Gas Co. did the drilling. However, to date no drilling in Mississippi County has produced oil or gas. The county's principal wealth still comes from its agriculture.

One of the strangest things to take place in Southeast Missouri was a lion hunt held in January of 1933. Denver M. Wright of St. Louis and originally from Kentucky and then Portageville, Missouri, with his son Charles, planned the hunt. The hunting party consisted of the two Wrights, sound motion picture men to record the hunt, an expedition manager, two cooks, two gun bearers, and six negro beaters. There were tents and equipment to accommodate eighteen persons for a period of one week. John W. Clift and Ted Bennett of Mississippi County were the gun bearers.<sup>64</sup>

The party left St. Louis on a day in the early part of January at 8 o'clock in the morning, stopped at Cape Girardeau for lunch, and arrived at East Prairie without incident or mishap. In East Prairie the party met the local contingent and Mayor Frank W. Davis.<sup>65</sup>

The lions were taken to the local public schools. Pupils were dismissed from classes that they might view the beasts.<sup>66</sup>

From East Prairie the party proceeded south to the river where everything was loaded on boats and taken to a small island in the river where camp was already being established. The island was around 190 acres in size and thickly covered with small trees and brush.<sup>67</sup>

The two lions who were five years old and vicious, untrained African males were released from their cages two days later. They remained close to camp for two more days but on the next day the beaters were given their final instructions and they started into the underbrush in single file with the Wrights, gun bearers and cameraman close behind.<sup>68</sup>

One lion was wounded by Denver Wright as it rushed toward him and was finished off by his son. The second lion a short time later was shot by both Denver and his son as it sprang at "Indian Joe" Putnam, one of the beaters.<sup>69</sup>

And so America's strangest safari was over except for breaking camp and the trip home.<sup>70</sup>



## Chapter VII

### TOWNS

#### CHARLESTON

By 1820 settlements had been made in most of the present counties of Southeastern Missouri. The settlers were largely farmers. Some of the inhabitants depended in part upon hunting and trapping, but the greater number were almost entirely dependent upon agriculture. In Mississippi County the earliest settlements were along the river, but in a few years settlements were scattered throughout the county. By the year 1859 Mississippi County had ten settlements. By 1895 some of these had disappeared but new settlements had sprung up to make a total of fourteen. Today (1972) there are nine marked on the Missouri State Highway map but of these only seven have post offices. They are: Charleston, East Prairie, Wyatt, Bertrand, Anniston, Dorena, and Wolf Island. Charleston, the county seat, is the largest, with a population of 5,131.

#### *Settlement, Growth and Business Development*

The site of the present city of Charleston was originally entered in 1830 or 1831 by Humphrey Warren, who built a small log house at what is now the northwest corner of Center and Cypress streets. In a short time he sold the house and forty acres of land to Thankful Randol who kept a sort of hotel or boarding house until her death.<sup>1</sup>

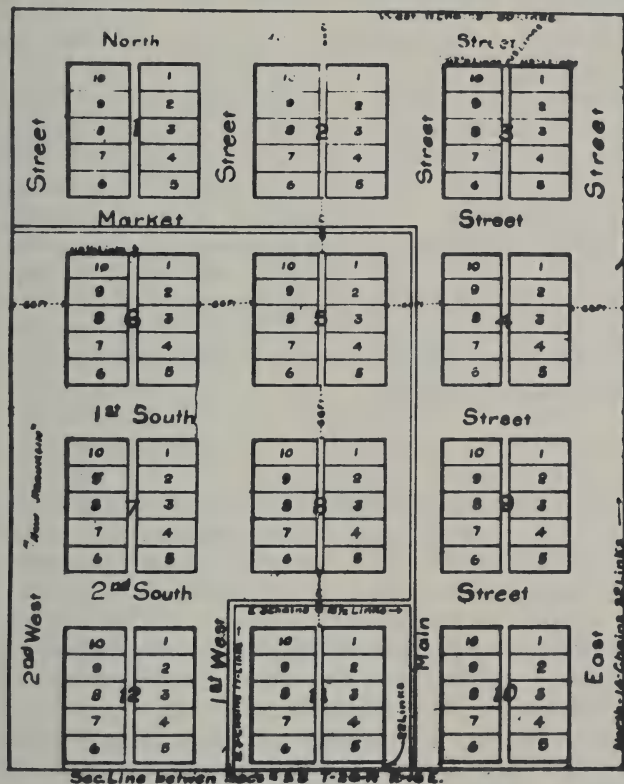
On November 12, 1834, Isaac Sheppard entered from the U. S. Government the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> section 3-26-16 containing 160 acres. On November 12, 1834, Isaac Sheppard and Mary Sheppard sold to Thankful Randol eighty acres of the above ground for a consideration of one hundred dollars.<sup>2</sup>

On May 11, 1837, Joseph Moore, assisted by John Rodney of Scott County, a surveyor, laid out the original town of Charleston, consisting of twelve squares, or blocks, then referred to as Mathews Prairie or Saint Charles Prairie, Missouri, as recorded in Book B, page 118, in the Recorder's Office. John Rodney was the great-great-grandfather of Roderick Ashby of Charleston.

Charleston was laid off on lands owned by Thankful Randol, Joseph Moore and Wesley P. Bernard. It covered an area of 16 and 35/100 acres of land and was laid out into twelve blocks of ten lots each with streets sixty-six feet wide. Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, were owned by Randol, block 11 by Bernard and the remainder by Moore.<sup>3</sup> The south border was what is now Marshall Street, the north border what is now Commercial Street, the east border is now First Street, and the west border is

On May 13, 1837 Thankful Randol sold 22½ acres to Joseph Moore for \$337 and Charleston was immediately laid out. Its original boundary was 12 blocks—four north and south and three east and west.

The south border was what is now Marshall Street, the north border what is now Commercial Street, the east border is now First Street and the west border is now Franklin Street.



THIS ORIGINAL PLAT of the City of Charleston was filed May 20, 1837, when the area now called Mississippi County was the eastern part of Scott County.

now Franklin Street.

The first store in the town was opened by John H. West and his partner, whose name was Neil, on the location the Kenrick building later occupied. They later moved to a small slab-covered house. They were succeeded by Arthur R. Newman who built a hewed-log house on the same site. Other merchants were Henry G. Cummins and Kieran Gorman. Gorman was one of the largest and most successful merchants prior to the Civil War, and is said to have become wealthy through his trading operations.<sup>4</sup> His store was on the northwest corner of what is now Commercial and Main Street. He died around 1865.

One of the men who did much to build up the town and make it prosperous was George Whitcomb, who came to the county from Massachusetts in 1837. He located on the site of Belmont, where he remained until the organization of the county. He then moved to Charleston where he lived in a large double log house where the residence of J. J. Russell was later built. In 1854 he built the first brick hotel, the second brick building in town, the first having been built in 1848 by James and Charles Moore. In 1857 he started the first newspaper of the county, the "Courier". He was a public spirited man and accomplished a great deal for the town. He was largely instrumental in securing the Cairo and Fulton Railroad for Charleston. He was clerk of the courts for about twenty years and was a dealer in real estate. He died on July 10, 1872.<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Solomon D. Golder, who was a surgeon with the 79th Regiment during the Civil War, is credited with being the first resident physician in Charleston.

In 1845 when Charleston became the county seat it did not have over half a dozen houses. There were fifteen business establishments in the town by 1859 including general and special stores and one saloon. Among the merchants were: Kieran Gorman, dry goods; I. Rosenberg, dry goods; Hayes & Bartlett, Frank Myrick, J. H. Bridges, W. G. Cooley, W. A. Lynn, drugs; and F. J. Jecko. At this time the town's physicians were: B. J. Moore, S. D. Golder, T. C. Poor, J. L. Haw, and A. E. Simpson. There were a number of attorneys, including Robert Waide, A. M. Bedford, N. E. Quinby (or Quimby), Sam C. Moore, Joseph C. Moore, M. Ward, and W. C. Cooley. The first mayor of Charleston was Thomas Winters.

The almanac of 1859 gives a description of the town at that time, "Charleston is a pleasant village situated in Matthew's Prairie, and surrounded by fine plantations. It is the county seat, has a large two-story court house, a brick clerk's office, and a jail. The Methodist Episcopal Church has a large brick house of worship. The Baptists have a very neat church now nearly completed. There are two hotels, a school house, three dry goods stores, three grocery stores, a drug store, two saloons, one stove and hardware shop, one tailor's shop, two shoe shops and a large

freight and depot warehouse, passenger house, etc. Mr. Watson, of the Cooley House, is fitting up an ice cream saloon with a soda fountain.”<sup>6</sup>

Additional advertisers in 1862 were: W. Stratton, dry goods; Ignaz Lutz, boot and shoe maker; Hughes & Fisher, blacksmith; Jackson and Dukes, buggy and wagon makers; L. Keesee, attorney; C. Spalding, Charleston Hotel.<sup>7</sup>

By 1875 the population of Charleston was 1,200 and business firms in the city listed in a book by L. A. Wilson and M. R. Smith were:

Andrews, O. W., stoves and tinware  
Bastian, Stephen, boots and shoes  
Black, D., bakery and groceries  
Blackstone, H. H., saloon  
Bridwell, J. H., doctor  
Clarkson & Brown, general merchandise  
Courtway, Joseph, Prop., Whitcomb Hotel  
Crenshaw, R. S., general merchandise  
Danforth, A. H. & Bro., general merchandise  
Drye, F. M., attorney and editor of the Courier  
Fleck & Baldwin, furniture and coffins  
Gill & Osborne, prop., Palace Saloon  
Golder & Parker, doctors  
Harris & Rosenbaum, general merchandise  
Holloway, J. H. saddlery, harness and furs  
Kenrick, G. W., general merchandise  
Lutz, Ignatius, boots and shoes  
Moore & Hatcher, lawyers  
Ogilvie, J. & Bro., general merchandise  
Patterson, T. L., doctor  
Renzo, John M., doctor  
Rosenstein, Sol & Co., merchant tailors and dry goods  
Siegelman, J. A., general merchandise  
Simpson, A. E., general merchandise  
Taylor, M. F., lawyer  
Vernon & James, drugs and general merchandise  
Waide, Robert, lawyer  
Ward, Messer, lawyer<sup>8</sup>

L. U. Reavis in his booklet of 1878 gave his impression of Charleston, “The town of Charleston was laid off about 1830, but made slow progress in growth for many years. After the late war its citizens were inspired with new energy, and as it was soon given an outlet by the arrival of the Iron Mountain Railroad, began to prosper and increase in size very rapidly. Numerous substantial business houses were erected, and Charleston soon became one of the most important points in the state south of St. Louis. Most of the houses are frame structures, but there are a number of very substantial brick buildings. It has a school building, used both for a public and private school, which would



do honor to a city of much greater size. Here are two large flouring mills, one owned by F. J. Jecko, the other by Moore and Crenshaw. There is also a planing mill and shingle factory, two wagon and carriage factories, four blacksmith shops, eight dry goods houses, some of which do a very extensive business, and a proportionate number of other business houses. The city has one good public hall, three churches, and one first-class hotel. The dwellings of J. H. Bethune, A. H. Danforth, Messer Ward, and L. W. Danforth are elegant brick structures, surrounded by spacious grounds, and completed at a cost of from ten to twenty thousand dollars each."

Reavis concluded, "The city is not in debt, but has ample funds in the treasury. The municipal government is managed with such economy that there is no city tax whatever, the revenue being derived from special license tax. Three saloons pay \$1,000 each, yearly, into the treasury. This alone being more than sufficient to pay the municipal expenses."

A year later, in 1879, a St. Louis newspaper correspondent gave his impression of the town, "I found Charleston a town of considerable activity. The streets are broad and somewhat sandy. The business houses and residences all looked neat and clean, many of them being very creditable structures of brick and several new ones in the course of erection."

"The city has a large hall, and its Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor and Pythian lodges. The court-house is a frame building, yet amply arranged for the purpose for which it is employed. The population seems to be largely composed of Kentuckians and Tennesseans. Here is the home of Maj. R. A. Hatcher, a member of congress for two terms, and a man who served with Senator Vest in the Confederate Congress. The major was in the service during the war, since which time he has been engaged at the law when not servicing his people at Washington."

"The Hon. Messer Ward and Col. H. J. Deal were absent from home in the interest of immigration to their county. Judge J. M. Brown, for almost twenty years an official of the county, I found occupying the office of probate judge. J. H. Bethune, clerk of the court, was busily engaged at the manifold duties of his office. Among the merchants whom I met were G. W. Kenrick, who came from Ireland twenty eight years ago and for thirteen years has sold goods at Charleston; A. H. Danforth & Bros., general merchants, Dr. J. H. Hess, dealer in drugs and medicine; Simon G. Rosenstein, merchant in the general line; J. C. Crenshaw, a young groceryman doing a nice trade; Messrs. Snellen and Ong, who grind the wheat for the surrounding country; and Oliver (should be Olave) W. Andrews, the stove and tinware merchant. I also had the pleasure of meeting J. T. Wilson, Esq., county attorney."

Singing groups and bands did their part in livening things

up, the Charleston paper stating, "Several young men with the colored string band were out on a general serenade last Monday evening. They serenaded twenty-two different places."

Some of the sheet music advertised in the local paper in 1879 was: My Grandpa's Advise, Sleep Sweetly Little Darling, Father Won't You Try, I'll Tell Your Mother, The Little Blind Match Seller, and He Holds the Pearly Gates Ajar.

A paper of August 1889 announced, "A two-horse of minstrels pitched their tent in the court yard opposite the clerk's office and advertised a free exhibition of rope walking at 7 p. m. At the close of the exhibition the Charleston Silver Cornet Band made its appearance and played 'Pull for the Shore'."

From 1878 to 1881 the City of Charleston had twelve fires and twenty-three buildings destroyed. Only four fires were put out without doing any great damage. The editor of the paper felt, "We should have a hook and ladder company to go with the fire engine."<sup>9</sup>

Shortly afterward L. W. Danforth and D. Rush were appointed a committee by the city council to devise means to furnish Charleston with water in cases of emergency.<sup>10</sup>

The first fire protection afforded Charleston was a volunteer bucket brigade. The fire fighting equipment was a tank holding a few barrels of water mounted on four wagon wheels, hand drawn from place to place and manually operated. Toward the middle 1890's chemical fire extinguishers were added and driven pipe wells in the business section of town were supplements to the early fire fighting equipment.

In 1881 Charleston had twelve physicians, twelve lawyers, two dentists and the following year, the first hearse arrived. It was owned by W. L. Baldwin and housed at Bethune and Bridges livery stable. Rush Andrews drove the first dray in Charleston. That same year Charleston had forty oil street lights put up by Thomas Sorey.

L. W. Danforth dedicated his new hotel in 1881 by giving a grand ball and supper. The "Jolly Twelve Dancing Club" conducted the ball and Thomas J. Weatherly was in charge of the hotel restaurant.<sup>11</sup>

Franklin S. Goodin owned a kiln in which he could burn 200,000 bricks and carpenters were completing five dwellings for George H. Bridges. He and his family planned to occupy the two-story one on Center Street and rent out the other four.

An advertisement of 1883 read, "Frank G. Sheppard, proprietor of the ice house has a fine horse and splendid hack to be used in delivering ice to customers. Fine lake ice delivered at any hour in the day and in any quantity."

In June of 1885 the city council rented the building owned by Mrs. Loebe, adjoining her residence on Main Street and previously occupied by W. N. Randolph as an office, for the mayor and court and the council to meet in. The same year fire

totally destroyed the A. H. Danforth clothing store, W. M. Harris store, F. J. Jecko building, the two story brick Whitcomb Hotel and storehouse, the residence of Mrs. Loebe, and the old Whitcomb row of eight frame buildings.

A pole was erected above the post office in 1886 with signal flags to indicate the weather.<sup>12</sup>

The principal business men of Charleston in 1886 were as follows:

- D. Rusk, jeweler
- D. Black, grocery store
- K. Siegelman, dry goods
- L. D. Danforth & Bros., grocery store
- Benjamin Mc Kinley, grocery store
- J. C. Bondurant & Co., druggist
- Geo. W. Kenrick, general store
- F. M. Stotts, dry goods
- Arnold Klein, grocery
- Goldstein & Rosenwater, dry goods
- Frank B. Rice, grocery and bakery
- Frank G. Schuh, bakery
- C. M. Slack & Co., furniture
- J. W. Lindsay, general store
- M. J. Risinger, furniture
- W. H. Lusk, druggist
- Simon G. Rosenstein, dry goods
- Joe Hart, ironware
- Travis & Co., saloon
- John Hart, furniture
- D. W. Jackson, groceries
- Miss Lizzie Fletcher, groceries
- A. McElmurry, dry goods
- L. W. Danforth, dry goods and groceries
- J. W. Hess & Co., druggists

There were also hotels, boarding houses, meat shops, shoe shops, barber shops, millinery stores and other small enterprises.

The growth of the town was slow until the completion of the Iron Mountain Railroad, after which it made a steady increase, but the greater part of its population was added after 1887. That year Lorenzo D. Owen leased the Commercial Hotel from the owner, L. W. Danforth.

The Charleston Roller Mills and Elevator, Crenshaw & Co., with I. A. Crenshaw as manager was built in 1890 at a cost of \$34,000. The capacity of the mill was 200 barrels of flour, 250 barrels of meal and 90,000 pounds of chopped feed daily. The capacity of the elevator was 100,000 bushels. The sale of their products extended all over Southeast Missouri and Northern Arkansas. In 1891, L. W. Danforth and G. W. Fowlkes started Fowlkes Mill. The principal hotels were the Hotel Kenrick and the Hotel Swain.



Circus time in Charleston around 1892.  
Courtesy Avis Muench



Main Street looking north. Businesses then were the John Lindsay store on the corner followed by Rusk Jewelry, Stotts Millinery, Stotts Drug Store, Hart Hardware, a shoe shop and Jim Rice's store.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



In June of 1892 the city council purchased a fire engine and outfit for \$750. The following month the city council held a meeting at the office of W. G. Lee for the purpose of organizing a fire company. Mayor Danforth appointed Simon Loebe, chief of the Fire Co. In the same year Frank Hequembourg and Seth Bedford had a large building erected near their ice factory for the purpose of running a first class bath house. They claimed that it would have all modern improvements and would be the first this side of St. Louis.

The paper also announced that Anheuser-Busch of St. Louis would establish a branch beer and ice store-house in Charleston at an early date. They were to erect a large building just north of the depot.

There was also a boom of residential building in 1892. Judge J. T. Heggie built ten new houses, L. B. Waller built three and in all thirty-nine new houses in Bedford's addition were built within ten months. The paper was happy to be able to announce, "The building boom of Charleston this year will eclipse that of any previous year and three good paying factories are: an ice factory, a basket factory, and a cigar factory."

In March of 1892 Charleston became a fourth class city and in January, 1893, a committee of three: W. G. Lee, S. G. Tetwiler, and John F. Martin were appointed to plan to rename and number the streets of Charleston under the charter of a fourth class city.

The Heggie Hotel near the depot opened in 1893 with Mr. Morris of the Marble Yards to run it.<sup>13</sup> Then came the slump of 1893 and some business houses were forced to close. Citizens became alarmed at the financial situation and many withdrew their money from the banks. However, in 1894 the paper was able to announce, "Ten of Charleston's business houses that were not occupied last year have opened up with good stocks and merchandise."

The Deal Bros. Steam Laundry added a bath room to their business and the ice factory was running day and night with a capacity of seven tons every twenty-four hours and failed to supply the demand. W. C. and J. C. Bryant established the W. C. Bryant Mercantile Co.

City councilman Howlett was appointed by the mayor as overseer of the fire engine. The city had 160 loads of dirt put into the mudholes around town at a cost of forty dollars and also purchased street sprinklers. Seth Bedford was put in charge of the two horse drawn sprinklers to try and keep down the dust.

In November of 1894 Buffalo Bill's wild west show arrived in Charleston and were quartered on East Commercial just back of the Mississippi County Bank. They carried their own "Opera House" with them in the shape of a wagon built on the order of a palace sleeping car which was pulled by four horses.<sup>14</sup>

The editor of the DeSota "Facts" recorded his impression of

Charleston in the year of 1894, "This is a town that never had a boom; yet it has grown and is growing rapidly. The old town was built up along the old Cairo and Fulton railroad, now the Cairo Branch, nearly a half mile from the junction of the Belmont Branch where the depot is, and for years passengers had to walk or ride over an open country to the business quarters. (There had been some interest in trying to get a horse-drawn street car to take care of this problem). Within the past four years the growth has been almost wholly between the depot and the old town, and within another year the town will reach the depot. Opposite the depot on the south two railroad men have established an ice factory and another is successfully engaged in the grocery business. Col. H. J. Deal, one of the founders of the town, has passed away, but Henry Bethune, whom he educated as a railroad contractor, superintended the construction of one-tenth of the railroad building done in the country in 1892. His office is now in St. Louis, but his old home is still in Charleston."

"Charley Hequembourg is another Charleston boy who has gone up in railroad work until he now has charge of the car service reports from the Gould system. Frank, his brother, is conductor on the south end."

"Around Charleston is one of the finest farming regions of the Mississippi Valley. The only drawback to prosperity was the occasional overflows of the river, and now these have been stopped by a levee from the base of the hills south of Commerce to the south line of the county. The products of the county are wheat, melons, corn, stock and vegetables. There is a great amount of wealth in the county. For this reason Charleston is one of the best points in the state for trade."

"A fine flouring mill and a large elevator adorn the south side of the town and its streets are laid out at right angles and the residence quarters are shaded with beautiful trees."

"Charleston will probably never have a boom, but its growth will be steady for many years to come. There is yet a large area of good farming land to be improved. They do say that citizens occasionally have the chills, but they and the farmers generally look healthy and contented. The town is lighted by electricity, but the service is not satisfactory from some cause. It needs a court house badly. The county is amply able to build the finest south of St. Louis. It is entirely Democratic; perhaps 'that's what's the matter'."

The Bridges Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of cob pipes, began operation in November of 1895. They employed twelve people and had a capacity of six thousand pipes per day. George H. Bridges was proprietor and James P. Bridges manager. The stems for the pipes were made in Mississippi County. They also made brooms. In 1897 they shipped over 100,000 pipes to St. Louis.

The paper claimed, "Dwelling houses are in demand in this

city. A four or five room bungalow readily rents for \$10 per month."

William A. Bush and J. H. Bethune brought one of the early high wheel cycles to Charleston. Around the same time Marvin Deal owned a similar one and stories vary as to which was the first to be seen on the streets of Charleston.

In the summer of 1895 a bicycle craze hit Southeast Missouri and many clubs were started. The Charleston Bicycle Club started with twenty members but soon added many more and the craze took hold. The club entered into a contract with R. C. Danforth to make a half mile race track east of the city where races could be held and bicycles became so plentiful that the city was finally forced to pass an ordinance prohibiting the riding of bicycles on the sidewalks. The bicycle enthusiasts objected strenuously because of the dusty roads and were finally allowed to ride on the walks in certain areas of the city. Miss Lota Clarkson, according to the paper, was the "first young lady bicyclist of this city (Charleston) to don the bloomer style". The style soon became popular with other members of the "fair" sex.

Gun clubs were also popular at this time and in January of 1895 the paper announced, "Charleston is to have another shooting gallery". The first annual tournament of the Charleston Gun Club was held on August 14 and 15, 1895.<sup>15</sup> Today there is a Mississippi County Gun Club which offers trap and skeet shooting to members and guests. It was built in 1968-69 and is the site of the annual Missouri Eastern Zone Skeet Championship.<sup>16</sup>

The almanac of 1895 gave the following information about the city of Charleston. "The county seat, is a thriving city of the fourth class, having a population of more than 1,500. It is an old town, but in recent years has taken on new life, and its present appearance is entirely modern. It is noted for its hospitable people and handsome homes, as well as its business enterprises."

"Charleston is lighted by electricity, and besides its electric light plant has a roller mill of a daily capacity of 200 barrels each of flour and meal, to which is added a grain elevator of large capacity, an ice factory of many tons capacity; a corncob pipe and broom factory; planing mill; sawmill; machine shop; Methodist, Baptist, Christian and Catholic churches, each with a commodious building for white congregations; Methodist and Baptist churches for the colored people; a graded public school of six departments for white children and one of two departments for the colored children; a Convent School by the Ursuline Sisters, occupying a six-thousand dollar brick building; three daily and weekly newspapers, two flourishing banks; several hotels, and all the various mercantile, professional and business institutions usually found in cities of its size. The Belmont and Cairo branches of the Iron Mountain railroad cross at this point, and shipping facilities are excellent. Ships flour,

meal, ice, pipes, brooms, live stock and farm products. Pacific Exp., W. U. Tel. Mail twice a day in all directions. L. Hay, postmaster."

The merchants listed in the almanac were:

Andrews, O. W., baker and confectioner  
Baker, Henry, painter  
Beagle, Rev. J. A., pastor Methodist Church  
Bedford, William, poolroom and restaurant  
Bell, E. D., county and city clerk  
Blomeyer & Pratt, dry goods and groceries  
Bogard, Rev. Ben. M., pastor Baptist church  
Bondurant & Lusk, druggists  
Boone & Lee, attorneys  
Boone & Son, carpenters and contractors  
Boone, J. A., mayor  
Boone, R. A., county school commissioner  
Bottenstein & Shelby, clothing  
Bridges Mf. Co., broom and cobpipe makers  
Bridges, James P., insurance  
Bridwell, I. H., physician  
Brown, Jas. M., real estate and insurance  
Browning, Fred, photographer  
Bryant Bros., groceries and hardware  
Call, The daily and weekly, H. D. Lutz, publ.  
Capshaw, J. R., barber  
Chapman, A. W., physician  
Charleston Bank, Scott Alexander, cashier  
Charleston Electric Light and Power Co. (Geo. H. Bridges,  
J. H. Moore) C. C. Radabaugh, electrician  
Charleston Enterprise, daily and weekly, John F. Martin,  
publisher  
Charleston Ice Factory, F. Hequembourg. prop.  
Charleston Roller Mills, Crenshaw & Co. props., I. A.  
Crenshaw, Mgr.  
Clack, T. J., clothing and shoes  
Clarkson, I. T., circuit clerk  
Cleve & Nosal, merchant tailors  
Cox, Miss Jennie, fancy goods  
Crenshaw, R. B., drayman  
Cumley, T. S., city marshal and hotel  
Cummins, Clint D., liveryman  
Danforth, A. H., grain dealer  
Danforth, L. W., builders' materials and coal  
Danforth & Lee, stock dealers  
Danforth, L. D., grocer  
Deal, E. J., lawyer, abstractor and notary  
Deal Bros., E. P. & J. D., farmers and stockmen  
Deal, J. D., veterinary surgeon  
DeLine, Chas., blacksmith



Democrat, The daily and weekly, S. G. Tetwiller,  
 publisher  
 Dever, J. L., blacksmith and wagon maker  
 Elkins, P., Kandy Kitchen  
 Elliott, Geo. S., prosecuting attorney and notary  
 Fletcher, Mrs. E., prop. Hotel Fletcher  
 Fowlkes, G. W., planing mill  
 Frank, I. M., Iron Mountain train dispatcher  
 Galbraith, G. W., insurance  
 Golder, M. V., books and stationery  
 Goodin, Allen B., restaurant  
 Green, Jas. S., station agent  
 Hart, John, stoves and tinware  
 Holloway, A. M., Justice of the Peace  
 Holloway, William A., county assessor  
 Hay, Lowery, postmaster  
 Hisey, John F., coal oil inspector  
 Holman, W. H., manager W. U. Tel.  
 Howlett, Jno. L. & Co., dry goods and clothing  
 Hotel Fletcher  
 Hudson & Biggs, feed and sales stables  
 Hudson, J. M., veterinary surgeon  
 Hussman, Rev., pastor Catholic church  
 Jackson, W. G., blacksmith  
 Jecko, Joe, restaurant and poolroom  
 Jones, A. R., meats  
 Kennerly, A., grocer  
 Kenrick, Geo. W's Sons, general merchants  
 Ketterer, Mrs. B., meats  
 Lee, W. G., city attorney and notary  
 Lee and Lee, J. F. & Walter, liverymen  
 Lindsay, J. W., general merchant  
 Loebe, S. P., express agent  
 Lutz, H. D., publisher "Call"  
 Lynch, J. W., physician  
 McClendon, J. M., physician  
 McCormick, Mrs. Mary, hotel  
 McElmurry, Absolum (should be Absalom), general  
 merchant  
 McElmurry, H. L., physician  
 Marshall, W. T., public administrator  
 Martin, John F., publisher "Enterprise"  
 Martin, Joseph F., sheriff  
 Mississippi County Bank, Edw. G. Rolwing, cashier  
 Missouri and Arkansas Immigration Co., S. P. Reynolds,  
 resident Mgr.  
 Mitchell, D. D., proprietor Hotel Mitchell  
 Moore, Paul B., lawyer and representative to state  
 legislature

Morris House, Frank Ashby, prop.  
 North, Jeremiah, sawmill  
 O'Bryan, Harry C., lawyer  
 Ogilvie, J. L., embalmer  
 Ogilvie, B. W., furniture and undertaking  
 Oliver, R. L., blacksmith and wagonmaker  
 Orr & Penny, dentists  
 Pacific Express Co., S. P. Loebe, agt.  
 Palmer, G. C., barber  
 Patterson, T. L., physician  
 Pittman, M. C., painter and paperhanger  
 Porter, Jasper N., railroad roadmaster  
 Randolph, W. N., lawyer, real estate, insurance  
 Russell, W. C., lawyer and probate judge  
 Rice, Frank B., grocer  
 Risinger, Mrs. M. J., furniture and coffins  
 Rosenstein, S. G., insurance  
 Rouse, Sam W., justice of the peace and harness maker  
 Rowe, John M., physician  
 Rusk, David, jeweler  
 Russell, Joseph J., lawyer  
 Schuh, Frank G., grocer  
 Sidwell, W. I., jeweler  
 Smith, Lloyd A., city collector  
 Schmuck, P., merchant tailor  
 Stotts, C. A., druggist  
 Stotts, F. M., county collector  
 Travis, James F., saloon  
 Sigmon, L. I., saloon  
 Waller, L. B., grocer  
 Stotts Dry Goods Co. (F.B., A. L., and F. M.)  
 Rosenstein, Miss Rose, milliner  
 Rosenstein, F. J., dry goods  
 Wilkinson, F. J., dry goods  
 Romine, John, butcher  
 Youngwirth, J. P., druggist  
 Shelby, E., grocer  
 Wainwright, V. W., builder and contractor  
 Morris & Rhodes, marble yard

That same year the city passed an ordinance creating the office of night watchman.

By the year of 1896 the Charleston Ice Manufacturing Company, McElroy and Hequembourg, proprietors, had a capacity of ten tons per day. L. W. Danforth and Jeremiah North both had sawmill plants in Charleston for the manufacture of hard wood lumber. The business portion of the town was substantially built of brick, but on February 28, the Commercial block burned including Cleve & Nosal, Mac Golder, Tobe Kennerly, the Enterprise, Joe Capshow, Hotel Loflin and Mrs. Ketterer's.

In February of 1897 the telegraph which had been managed by the railroad was taken over by Western Union Telegraph Co. under a contract between them and the railroads stating that when a certain stage of business was reached this would be done.

Also in February the paper reported, "At the City Council meeting Wednesday evening alderman Fred Browning was instructed to ascertain the cost of numbering the streets of Charleston and resident parts, and to report the same at the next meeting, the first Monday in April, which means that Charleston will be known in the future as a city instead of a country town."

A candy factory was announced as a new enterprise for Charleston. Jack Ogilvie opened his furniture store and also claimed to be the first undertaker in Charleston. In March the Southern Hotel on West Commercial was destroyed by fire. It was owned by A. H. Danforth and had been occupied by a Mrs. McCormack as a hostelry since 1883.<sup>17</sup>

That same year a curfew law went into effect and all, "Boys had better be home before 9 o'clock."

In 1898 F. D. Lair, Sr., founder of the Lair Co., began with a small "racket" store known as the C.O.D. Store. It would be known today as a variety store. The first location was on West Commercial in the brick building later occupied by Test's Grocery. Lair, reporting on the opening of the store, said, "Opening day was regarded as a grand success by the entire firm because cash receipts were around \$40. Travis Kimmell was among our first local salesmen."<sup>18</sup>

The Wigdor building on Center Street was "home" for the Lair Company from 1900 to 1902. It was here that the variety stock was gradually discontinued and furniture and undertaking gained more prominence. From 1902 to 1918 the Lair Co. occupied a much larger building on East Commercial and a branch outlet at East Prairie. In 1918, W. C. Bryant built a large building on the corner of Main and Cypress and leased it to Lair, but eventually the Lair interests obtained full ownership and by 1937 Lair was also operating a second store at Sikeston, Missouri. Some years later Frank Lair, Jr., took over the business. He retired in 1970 and today the building is occupied by the Dollar General Store Co.<sup>19</sup>

The Charleston Maroons of 1900 earned the district baseball championship. The players were: Roy Ogilvie, Clyde Hart, Joe Howlett, Jabe Clarkson, Hardy Pottinger, Andy Gross, Ira Brown, John Heggie, John Gainey, Bob Green, and Charles R. Trickey, captain.<sup>20</sup>

In 1901 E. W. Ogilvie began the destruction of the two old frame buildings adjoining his furniture store and replaced them with a brick, two story building. The Kenrick Bros. remodeled their building on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets and Bryant Mercantile built on the corner of Main and Market.



The Lair Company has not always occupied the strictly modern two-story brick building on Main street that it now occupies. In August 1898 Frank Lair, Sr., started his "racket store" known as the C. O. D. store, in the brick building now occupied by Test's Grocery on West Commercial Street.

Charleston Branch of the Union Bank of St. Louis.



ASTEER STROLLS down Main Street in front of an old bank building on the site of the present

home of Miss Joella Moore and Mrs. Margaret Thurmond. The photo was taken May 11, 1901.



In 1902 the city decided to gravel Main Street in front of the courthouse and it was so satisfactory several additional streets were graded and graveled.

This was also the year for the annual Drummer's Day to be held in Charleston with a banquet on May 16 at the Court House. The Enterprise issued a special edition of the paper which featured salesmen who visited the area and with pictures of many of the homes of Charleston as an added feature. The next meeting of the Drummers Association in Charleston was held in 1921 but without as much fanfare.

Fall and Spring openings were events that had been staged by the merchants for a number of years and were usually well attended. The fall of 1902 was no exception in spite of bad weather. Some of the sponsoring merchants were: Holloway Dry Goods, Big Four Mercantile Co., C. A. Stotts Millinery, Bryant Mercantile, and Rosenstein Dry Goods. It was a sign of changing times, however, when that year the merchants decided to close at 7 p.m. except on Saturday nights, when the custom had been to stay open until 10 p.m. every week night.

An ordinance was passed to restrain hogs from running at large and two years later, in 1904, the voters approved one to prevent cows from running at large within the city limits.

In May of 1904 a block of buildings burned which included DeField's livery stable, R. C. Danforth, the blacksmith shop, the city jail, Fred Browning's photograph gallery, Dr. W. P. Howle's dwelling and the Heldenburg residence and in October the Charleston Hotel was destroyed by fire.

In 1905 more building was being planned. About thirty homes and half a dozen other structures were under way. These included the Farmers Mercantile Co., a two story addition to the Mitchell House and a new Methodist Church.

The Charleston brass band was organized by S. G. Tetwiler with twelve members in 1906. By fall of that year thirty-two members were active. They practiced under various directors, one of whom was J. B. Kindig, and were active for a number of years.<sup>21</sup>

In 1907 J. J. Russell erected on the corner of Main and Court Streets a large two story building with steam heat, water and tiled floors at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. The architect was J. B. Legg of St. Louis. Today the building is occupied by Carman & Hess Pharmacy and the office of Dr. Robert Frazier. A canning factory was planned with W. W. Fisher of Bertrand as the main promoter. George W. Drake and Joe Crenshaw opened a steam laundry. The Diamond Drug Store was owned by H. M. Halter with J. L. Halter as druggist. Charleston by now had a population of 2,704.

The Buckner-Ragsdale Mercantile Co. of Charleston was organized and opened by W. Buckner Ragsdale in September of 1910. It was located at the corner of Main and Commercial



Charleston Band 1910

Upper row (reading from left to right) - Ed Lash, Will P. Wright. Middle row - Fon Schofield, Dow Bagley, Bailey Frye, John Williams, Luke Howlett, F. H. Murphy. Bottom row - E. R. Lash, Robert Patterson, Frank Stewart, Henry Galbraith, Director T. C. Lash, Ed Reynolds and B. H. Rumsey. Robert Patterson is the only one living in 1974.

Courtesy Robert Patterson

Streets (now occupied by Sears Order Store). In 1925 Ragsdale purchased the building that houses the present store from the Farmers Mercantile Co., and, after remodeling, moved into the new building.<sup>22</sup> Since that time the building has again been remodeled and the company is still in business at the same location.

In 1912 Charleston voted to become a third class city. The following year East Commercial was the first street to be paved and street signs were installed and houses numbered in the city.

Plans were made in 1913 by George Gassman, owner of the Kenrick Hotel at 108-110 West Commercial Street, to do extensive remodeling and enlarging of the building. A third story and an elevator were to be added. At that time it was the oldest hotel in Charleston but the following year, before the work was completed, it burned. For a time the old Danforth home was in danger of catching fire.<sup>23</sup>

In 1914 William H. and A. H. Danforth agreed to donate

their home on South Main to the city for YMCA purposes. The only conditions to the gift were that citizens raise \$25,000 to equip and improve the property.<sup>24</sup> A drive for donations succeeded in raising \$30,000 and the building was opened on January 22, 1916. It was abandoned in 1921. In 1924 efforts were made to reorganize but were not successful. During the summers of 1928, '29, and '30 the swimming pool was opened to the boys and girls of Charleston with members of the Kiwanis Club in charge each afternoon. Nine years later the property was deeded to the Mississippi County Library District and the building was razed to make room for a new library building.

A familiar figure around Charleston for many years was "Uncle" Charley Ward, an aged negro who drove a wagon between the Post Office and depot for around forty years and whose long drawn out cry "Passing By" was later changed to a sign on the back of his wagon as shown in a photograph taken in 1901. In 1914, he claimed to be 112 and was given a new wagon by the citizens of Charleston as a gift for his faithful services.

The Post Office was moved from the Farmers Mercantile Co. in 1914 to the Odd Fellows building on the corner of Franklin and West Commercial Streets and postal delivery was started in October of that year with Harry Drane and Lindsey Edwards as carriers. In 1932 it was moved to the south side of the Buckner-Ragsdale building on Main Street.

There was excitement galore in Charleston in December of 1917, when the sheer weight of ice and snow crushed a large storage shed at the corner of First and Market Streets.<sup>25</sup>

The largest and most elaborate hotel Charleston was ever to have was started in 1917 by J. J. Russell on the corner of First and East Commercial Streets. George H. Gassman, a local contractor, built the structure at a cost of \$60,000. It was completed the following year at a total cost of \$125,000 and opened August 4, 1918 with J. E. Fenwick as the first manager.

Later a local corporation capitalized at \$2,500 leased the hotel from Russell. John R. Marable moved from Malden, Missouri, to Charleston in 1918 to take over the lease and in 1921 purchased the hotel. In 1939 the basement had one of the finest dance halls in Southeast Missouri under the management of his son, George. In the 1960's it again changed hands. Today it is vacant except for the office of Dr. John Gerdes.

In 1923 construction was started on two cotton gins, the Mississippi County Elevator Company and the Whitehead-Davis gin.<sup>26</sup> The same year the Kenrick Hotel site was acquired by Charles A. Goodin and Miss Cecil Daughtery from Paul B. Moore with plans to build a two or three story office building.<sup>27</sup>

The Big Four Store which had been organized in 1901 was purchased in 1926 by F. D. Lair and Lee Stader and sold the following week to Ed L. Skiles.

The following additions to the town were laid out and





E. W. Ogilvie C.O.D. Store on East Commercial Street where the McCutchen Theater is now located.  
 Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



Farmers Mercantile building built in 1905 and sold to Buckner Ragsdale in 1925.  
 Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



platted as follows: Byrd's Addition (Hunter Street) - 1912; Danforth Place Addition (North Virginia Street) - 1910; Green's Addition (west end of town) - 1910; Holloway & Deal's Addition (northeast part of town) - 1912; Bondurant Place Addition (on U. S. Highway 62) - 1914; Rolwing's Addition (near St. Henry's Church) - 1916; Wilkinson Addition (Ninth to Tenth on East Cypress and Marshall Street) - 1919; East Gate Addition - 1920; High School Addition - 1920.

In 1928 two acres were purchased from Lee Stader in the Big Lake area to use as a city dump. In 1930 the city purchased an additional thirty-seven acres in the same area to use as a dumping ground.<sup>28</sup>

A fire in 1932 destroyed the W. C. Bryant building and stocks of J. J. Blum, Hearnese Grocery, and Sisk's Shoe Shop for a loss of over \$50,000.<sup>29</sup>

In 1935 Charleston was one of forty-eight cities on the approved list in Missouri for an armory building to house the National Guard unit. The dedication was held a year later when the \$57,000 community building was officially opened to the public.<sup>30</sup> Russ Morgan was engaged by the Charleston Junior Chamber of Commerce to play for the occasion.

In 1935 a new \$35,000 modern business building was begun. H. T. "Totts" Bryant planned the largest construction in the business district since the depression, with a two-story structure to be occupied on the ground floor by the Friedman Mercantile Co. and the Peoples' Market. The upper floor of the building was to be occupied by Dr. Charles W. Rolwing and Dr. Harry Crowe. It was built on the corner of South Main and Market Streets where the W. C. Bryant building had been destroyed by fire in 1932. The building was completed around April of 1936.<sup>31</sup>

Charleston qualified, in 1936, for a new Post Office and the Government purchased the north 65 feet of the Methodist Church lot at Main and Cypress for \$8,000. The contract for approximately \$48,000 was let to H. E. White of Chicago and work was started in 1937.

Another major building project in the same year was the Brown Shoe Co. Possibly the first mention of a shoe factory came through Julius Wigdor who investigated the success of a small shoe making concern in Owensville, Missouri. Wigdor brought the matter to the attention of the Commercial Club and Junior Chamber of Commerce. The matter of getting a factory here finally resolved itself into a race between Chaffee and Charleston. Chaffee succeeded in raising the required amount first.<sup>32</sup>

In the meantime, Buckner Ragsdale had been in communication with E. R. McCarthy of the Brown Shoe Company. A conference of local civic leaders with officials of the company followed at the Russell Hotel, and shortly thereafter the campaign for outright gifts started.<sup>33</sup>



W. C. Bryant building on the corner of South Main and Market Streets built in 1936.  
Courtesy Mrs. H. T. Bryant

A committee consisting of Buckner Ragsdale, I. N. Smith, Max Friedman, F. T. Cutliph, and Frank Ashby, meantime, went to Cairo where a contract was closed for a sixty-seven acre tract of farmland known as the Bondurant place — at the then east limits of the City of Charleston.<sup>34</sup>

Through the cooperation of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and WPA officials here and in the district, workmen soon began "laying the grade" for a railroad spur. Construction of the building began July 19, 1937, with the Gerhardt Construction Company as contractor.<sup>35</sup> Formal opening of the new plant was held November 4, 1937.<sup>36</sup> The total floor space, as estimated by the builders was 38,994 square feet. The cost was estimated at \$100,000 with Charleston and the surrounding community investing \$65,000 in the building and site.

Clyde Swank claims that in 1948, shortly after he became City Manager of Charleston, an ordinance was passed permitting a right turn on red at stop-and-go lights, thus making Charleston the first town in Missouri to pass such an ordinance.

In 1953 eighteen businessmen decided to close their stores at 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and at the present time most businesses close at 5 p.m. Business firms closed or were remodeled and new ones opened during the succeeding years, but the business section remained substantially the same. With the increasing mobility of people, neighboring towns with large shopping areas are drawing shoppers from Charleston and the county.

On February 24, 1970, Charleston voters approved an Urban Renewal program by a six to one margin. The next step was the appointment by the mayor of a five-member board: George Simmons, four year term; Mrs. Helen Currin, three year term; O. T. Dalton, Jr., two year term; Willie Hart and Paul Handy Moore, one year terms.<sup>37</sup>

In the next three to five years under the impact of the Urban Renewal program downtown Charleston will get a major face lift. The Urban Programming Corporation of America, located in St. Louis, is now working on a downtown master plan for submission to the local Authority.<sup>38</sup>

Planners say the object of their plan will be to "beat the shopping center developers to the punch" by locating a new retail facility in the downtown area, thus keeping trade from going to some new shopping area on the outskirts of town. All these changes will be brought about with a combination of private capital investment, Urban Renewal funds, and city financing.<sup>39</sup>

For twenty or thirty years one of Charleston's greatest needs has been improved housing for families of low and medium incomes. A 100-unit public housing project completed in the early 1960's was the first step in this direction and in 1972 the Charleston Housing Authority is opening 110 additional units, including forty apartments for the elderly and seventy for families. Another fifty units will soon be completed.<sup>40</sup>





Old Charleston City Hall on Missouri Street



New Charleston City Hall built on North Main Street in 1972.



In 1968 the Charleston Chamber of Commerce raised over \$86,000 from local people to buy a 57.4 acre Industrial Park on the Iron Banks Road. In the spring of 1969 Basler Electric Co. became the first industry to locate a small plant there. The park has room for four or five small-to-medium size factories and facing up to the fact that new industries could not locate in the park due to lack of an adequate water supply, the city's voters in August of 1971 approved a \$100,000 bond issue for park improvement.<sup>41</sup>

The Charleston Chamber of Commerce opened an office on East Commercial Street in 1969 and hired a secretary. In addition to their many other interests, the hard working Chamber members sponsor an annual spring Dogwood-Azalea Festival, the first being held in 1969.<sup>42</sup>

In August of 1971 the voters of Charleston overwhelmingly approved a \$150,000 bond issue for a new city hall. Shirley Staples was employed as supervisor for the building which was erected on a lot at the intersection of Main and Missouri Streets. It was completed in July of 1972 and on August 27, 1972, the City Council held open house.<sup>43</sup>

For the past five years, Charleston has been making a real effort to change its image.

### *Banks*

The first bank in Charleston was a branch of the Union Bank of St. Louis and was opened in February, 1860 with John Bird as president; J. C. Moore, cashier; and G. W. Whitcomb, C. C. Kalfus, Thompson Bird, J. S. Bledsoe, Noah Handy, James Smith, J. L. Moore, and Kieran Gorman, directors. The building was on the north side of Cleveland Street where the home of Paul B. Moore was later built.

This early financial institution was short lived. In 1862 the bank was raided by General Jeff Thompson and \$56,570 in gold and silver taken from it to prevent it falling into the hands of the Federals. The remaining money was turned over to the depositors and until 1887 Charleston had no bank.

In that year Scott Alexander came from Hickman, Kentucky, and approached citizens with a view of subscribing \$15,000 stock for a bank. A story in the July 29, 1887, Enterprise said, "Mr. Alexander is a banker of considerable experience and is favorably impressed with the prospects which this place affords. He has interviewed a number of citizens who have expressed a willingness to subscribe the bank stock."

A later paper announced, "The building designed for the bank is rapidly nearing completion. J. J. Russell is in Jefferson City this week to secure a charter. In all probability the building will be finished next week."

In October of 1887 the Bank of Charleston was opened. Officers were: A. H. Danforth, president; Scott Alexander, cashier; Alfred Orr, J. J. Russell, A. A. Bondurant, F. M. Stotts, F. J.

Hess, A. H. Danforth, and Scott Alexander, directors.

The Mississippi County Bank was organized in 1891. At the sixth annual meeting of the stockholders of the bank in 1897, the following were elected directors: J. Handy Moore, George Kenrick, Edward G. Rolwing, E. L. Brown, and James C. Moore. In 1901 a brick and iron building for the bank was built on the lot directly opposite Ogilvie's Furniture Store, on Commercial Street, by John Hart, owner of the lot. It's cost was approximately \$10,000. In 1904 Mr. Moore who had originated the bank sold his stock and resigned as president. At that time E. L. Brown was elected president.

The bank statements as printed in a paper of 1896 were:

Charleston Bank

Capital stock	\$ 50,000
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Surplus	50,000
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Annual deposits	100,000
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Mississippi County Bank

Capital stock	\$ 40,000
---------------	-----------

Surplus	100,000
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Annual deposits	75,000
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A third bank opened in Charleston around February of 1902 with a capital stock of \$15,000 to be known as the People's Bank. The stockholders were: George H. Bridges, E. W. Ogilvie, J. R. Hagan, R. A. Barry, and others.

In 1910 Scott Alexander and members of the board of the Charleston Bank decided to build a bank building, and a year later, the present structure at the intersection of Main and Commercial Streets was completed at a cost of \$29,000.

The Farmers Exchange Bank of Charleston was organized and opened April 1, 1921. It was the fourth bank for the city and the tenth for Mississippi County. It was started with a capital stock of \$30,000. It occupied the corner of the J. J. Russell building and officers were: John C. Russell, president; Charles W. Reid, vice-president; Charles E. Kirkpatrick, cashier and director; John C. Russell, E. W. Reid, Charles E. Kirkpatrick, H. D. Sutherland, H. H. Rowe, William A. Wyatt, and O. L. Norman, directors.<sup>44</sup>

On March 16, 1925, the Charleston Bank and the Mississippi County Bank merged and were renamed the Charleston-Mississippi County Bank. Officers were: Scott Alexander, president; E. P. Deal, vice president; George U. Shelby, vice president and cashier; George N. Whitt, cashier; E. E. Grojean, assistant cashier. Directors were: Paul B. Moore, Scott Alexander, E. P. Deal, E. J. Deal, T. Ben Brewer, A. V. Goodin, Jeff Shelby, W. C. Bryant, E. L. Brown, Sr., and Dr. A. W. Chapman.<sup>45</sup>

In 1921 the People's Bank and the Farmers Exchange Bank merged and was renamed the People's Exchange Bank. In 1927 it failed to open its doors. At the time city funds in the amount of \$32,040 were tied up by the failure of the bank. That same year

when the Anniston Bank closed its doors the number of banks in the county had decreased from ten to three in a few years time.<sup>46</sup>

In 1928 the Bank of Charleston was organized to take over the Charleston-Mississippi County Bank, with a capital of \$100,000. Officers were: George U. Shelby, vice-president and cashier; E. P. Deal, president; A. V. Goodin, vice president. Directors were: Paul B. Moore, W. C. Bryant, A. J. Drinkwater, Dr. A. H. Marshall, J. D. Shelby, Dr. A. W. Chapman, Scott Alexander, E. J. Deal, and E. A. Schmid. When the two banks at East Prairie merged that year there were now two banks in the county, one at East Prairie, and one at Charleston.<sup>47</sup>

The Bank of Charleston prospered for a time and then went the way of the other banks. On January 3, 1930, it closed its doors and was subsequently liquidated.<sup>48</sup> When the New East Prairie Bank also closed in 1930 Mississippi County was left without a bank until the First Security State Bank of Charleston opened about a month later.

William H. Danforth of St. Louis organized the First Security State Bank with a capital stock of \$30,000. It opened on February 22, 1930 with William H. Danforth as president; Donald Danforth, vice president; and F. T. Cutliph as cashier.<sup>49</sup> In August of 1931 F. T. Cutliph resigned as cashier and was succeeded by R. E. Redmon of Palmyra, Missouri. The bank was purchased by local citizens in January of 1931. Directors were: S. P. Loebe, president; John T. Tlappek of St. Marys, Missouri, first vice president; Thomas L. Hodges, second vice president; H. D. Ficklin, Ralph Carson, W. J. Melton, T. Wert Gwaltney, directors; and F. T. Cutliph, cashier and director.<sup>50</sup> The bank is still housed in the old Charleston Bank building at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets.

In December of 1931 the Commission of Finance refused a charter for a Citizens Bank of Charleston.<sup>51</sup> A Citizens Bank was finally organized in 1957. A building was built at 207 East Commercial and opened February 4, 1958. Directors were: L. G. Black, Jr., E. L. Brown, Jr., J. M. Cullison, Noah Heath, Richard Saliba, C. J. Stancil, Finley Thompson, R. T. Yates, and J. D. Ellis, vice-president and cashier and Phil Barkett, assistant cashier.

There are three banks in the county today: The First Security State Bank and Citizens Bank in Charleston, and the First Bank of East Prairie in East Prairie. Officers and directors of the Charleston banks in 1972 are as follows:

*First Security State Bank*

*Officers*

George Story	President
J. Layton Pickard	Executive Vice President
Rowe Powell	Cashier
Mattie Prince	Assistant Cashier
Mary Lou Gage	Assistant Cashier

Sandra Hill . . . . . Assistant Cashier  
*Directors*

R. Wyman Beasley, T. J. Brown, Jr., W. C. Bryant, John Burke, Wendell Choate, Layton Pickard, E. R. Putnam, Jr., Hunter Raffety, George Story, Sam E. Story, and W. S. Vandivort.

*Citizens Bank*

*Officers*

Noah Heath . . . . . Chairman of the Board  
E. Finley Thompson . . . . . President  
James M. Cullison . . . . . Vice President  
James B. Moran . . . . . Executive Vice President  
Jack A. Farmer . . . . . Cashier

*Directors*

L. G. Black, Jr., E. L. Brown, Jr., James M. Cullison, Noah Heath, Lindsay Hurley, Ed C. Marshall, Jr., C. J. Stancil, E. Finley Thompson, Robert T. Yates.

*Utilities and waterworks*

Around 1891 the editor of the Enterprise began suggesting to the citizens of Charleston that someone should build an electric light plant and water works. In October of 1891 the foundation for the electric light house was completed. W. D. Pratt of Charleston had the contract to complete the building at a cost of around \$10,000. It was owned by J. Handy Moore, Edward G. Rolwing, Pitts White, and others. The plans were to place twenty-five 32 candle power incandescent electric lights on various street corners of the city to replace the kerosene lamps in use. The following month directors for the company were elected. They were: Dr. A. Orr, J. J. Russell, A. H. Danforth, Scott Alexander, I. A. Crenshaw, J. H. Moore, and George Kenrick, Jr.

On December third of that year the street lights were turned on and there were also 230 lights in business houses. In February of 1892 F. M. Stotts was the first person to have electric lights put in his home. He had sixteen lights installed at a cost of twenty-five cents per light per month.

In April of 1893 the paper printed, "Messrs. Crenshaw and Beckwith of the Charleston Roller Mills, yesterday purchased controlling interest of the Charleston Electric Co. and will in the near future move the plant to the mill and run the lights in connection with the mill. They promise to run the lights all night. They expect to work up six hundred lights or more in this city."

In 1895 George H. Bridges and J. H. Moore owned the Charleston Electric Light & Power Co. In 1896 the light company was unable to take care of the demand for more lights and a new 1700 dynamo was ordered from Philadelphia. It arrived in May and on June fourth the lights were shut off at 10 o'clock in order to put the new dynamo in position.

Two days later the paper carried news of trouble, "There



will be no lights tonight owing to a flaw in the new dynamo segments. Manager (C. C.) Radabaugh says that it will be only a short time until everything would be OK again, as the company is putting in the old dynamo to be used as a reserve in case of trouble. The foundation will be completed in a few days. Then in case of any trouble with the new dynamo the old one will handle the commercial lighting as it is plenty large enough when the city lights are off. The new dynamo will be repaired tomorrow”.

That same year a water system was being planned according to an article in the paper, “It was nearly a year ago that the Enterprise made the suggestion that Charleston have a system of waterworks. At that time the city was just recovering from an epidemic of small-pox, and we hardly expected that the suggestion would be received with much enthusiasm, but made it to start the people to thinking. At the time we sent letters to our business men, asking their views on the subject. Nearly every one answered promptly, saying they favored the plan and any movement towards accomplishing this would receive their hearty cooperation. The only change suggested was that a private company be formed instead of the plant being owned by the city. And on second thought it would appear a better plan, judging from the city’s experience with the electric light plant and fire engine, and the subsequent success of the stock company”.

“Messrs. Bridges and Moore propose to put in the works in connection with the electric light plant, and furnish water at a pressure sufficient to throw a stream of water to the tallest buildings through a four inch hose. One of the advantages of such an arrangement, among others, would be the lessened danger of fires and, as a natural result, a decided decrease in the present high rate of insurance. This feature alone should insure its success among the property owners.” The first water mains were installed and were privately owned by E. P. Deal and John Dever.

In November of 1897 the light plant was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt and in operation again by December.

The Charleston Electric Light Co., managed by R. B. Boyce, secured a contract from the city in 1902 to put in twenty 25 arc lights in and about the resident and business portion of town and they were completed and turned on in June.

In 1906 the water tank for the Charleston waterworks was installed and had a capacity of forty thousand gallons.

The Charleston Electric Light Co. was incorporated in June of 1905 for \$100,000 and the name changed to The Southeast Missouri Ice, Light and Power Company. It had about sixty-two business and residence customers, who were burning on a flat rate of \$1.50 for the first two lights, and fifty cents for each additional light and a contract with the City of Charleston to furnish light for \$1.40 per month. The flat rate was continued until August, 1909 when everything was put on meters.<sup>52</sup>

The citizens of Charleston voted in 1908 on whether or not to make a contract with the Electric Light Co. to furnish lights at night as well as in the daytime, and it carried overwhelmingly.

Officers in 1910 were: S. B. Hunter, president; James L. Byrd, vice president; Joseph C. Crenshaw, secretary and treasurer; R. B. Boyce, general manager; Charles E. McNeese, chief engineer.<sup>53</sup> Directors were: S. B. Hunter, James L. Byrd, Paul B. Moore, Charles D. Matthews, Jr., R. B. Boyce, Charles E. McNeese and Joseph C. Crenshaw.<sup>54</sup>

Early in 1913 citizens of Charleston became interested in a municipally owned water works. Meetings were held and outside consultants brought in. In July engineer Frank L. Wilcox of St. Louis gave an estimate of \$80,727 as the cost of a municipal water works and sewage plant. At a special election on September 2, 1913, a favorable vote called for the issuance of \$83,500 in bonds. Fifteen thousand dollars of that amount was to be paid for the existing water plant which had been owned by a private corporation and the remainder for six miles of additional mains and with sixty-five fire hydrants to be scattered all over the city.

In 1921 the Missouri Public Utilities Co. was supplying eleven towns, including Charleston, from a plant at Cape Girardeau.<sup>55</sup> In 1923 the Missouri Public Service Commission granted Union Electric of St. Louis permission to lease the holdings of its company in Southeast Missouri and the following year Union Electric sold its holdings in Southeast Missouri to the Community Power and Light Company of St. Louis.<sup>56</sup> In 1925 the name was changed to Missouri Utilities Co. and remains that today.<sup>57</sup>

In the fall of 1929 the Missouri Utilities Co. replaced the downtown lights with a new white way. In 1961 when South Main Street was widened and an overpass built to connect it with Interstate 57, new mercury vapor lights were installed from Marshall Street to the highway. Since then additional vapor lights have been installed in various parts of the city.

In 1926 at a special election a \$81,500 bond issue was approved to improve Charleston's water and sewage system and purchase a second fire truck at a cost of \$5,500.<sup>58</sup> A few years ago a new modern fire truck was purchased.

In 1945 Charleston planned a post-war improvement program that included storm and sanitary sewers, a modern water plant and a large paving improvement project all estimated to cost \$300,000.

In 1953 Charleston voters rejected a proposed \$210,000 bond issue for a sewage treatment and disposal plant and a \$170,000 bond issue to extend existing water and sewer lines, but on September 23, 1954, they approved a bond issue for \$165,000 for a sewage disposal plant which it was estimated would cost around \$210,000.<sup>59</sup>

At the present time the engineering firm of R. W. Booker & Associates, Inc. of St. Louis are making a study of water and sewer system improvements expected to cost \$850,000 and which will be needed in the near future.<sup>60</sup>

### *Telephone systems*

The first telephone in Charleston was a home made affair connecting the offices of Drs. Bondurant and Grinstead. The next telephone was a private line connecting the home and store of Judge L. W. Danforth. It, too, was a homemade apparatus but was used by Judge Danforth until around 1890.<sup>61</sup>

In 1894 plans were under way for a telephone system. The paper of June 15 informed the citizens, "The poles for a telephone system arrived today. Before this time next week the telephone will be in working order. Messrs. Holman and Lane deserve much credit for their enterprise in putting in the telephone system".

In 1896 a telephone between Charleston and East Prairie was finished. The Russell and Deal telephone lines had its main office in the law office of Russell and Deal and at John A. Miller's store at East Prairie. The following year phone service was started between Charleston and Bertrand. Headquarters in Charleston was at Russell and Deal's office and in Bertrand at H. L. Finley's store.

But a larger telephone system was in the making. The Charleston Enterprise reported, "The parties who have been on a 'dicker' for a telephone system for several months, have received the franchise, have organized with a capitol of \$1,000 and will be in running order by the first of April if H. T. Morgan and E. S. Fassett will be the owners of the telephone line, and both of them being linemen they thoroughly understand their business and will keep the phones in the best of order. Up to date forty boxes have been subscribed for and it is thought sixty will be the number started with. The main office will be located on Main Street, but the location is not known just at present."

In July of 1897 Charleston's telephone system belonging to Morgan and Fassett was completed. They had put in around thirty-eight telephones and had orders for twenty more. The first telephone was installed in the office of Dr. A. W. Chapman who in 1930 still retained the number of 1. The first operators were Miss Emma Ketterer, Mrs. Mike Pittman and Mrs. Lillian Fassett Martin. A short time after the system was installed Elias Fassett acquired the entire business for \$2,000.<sup>62</sup>

The calls made daily one week of 1897 were: Monday 80, Tuesday 116, Wednesday 125, Thursday 108, Friday 128, Saturday 130. None were listed for Sunday. In September of that year the Charleston Telephone Co. was connected with Cairo and Bird's Point and finally in 1901 the paper could publish, "Charleston is now connected with the outside world with long distance telephone. The Bell Company has recently completed

its cable across the river at Bird's Point and it is by reason of this fact that one can talk with another at almost any point in the United States from Charleston — if he is willing to foot the bill. It costs \$1.15 for the first three minutes for a conversation with St. Louis and 30 cents per minute for each additional minute."

Soon after Fassett acquired the Charleston Telephone system he began to extend the lines to Bloomfield and Dexter but the sleet storm of 1902 ruined him<sup>63</sup> and on November 6, 1902, the Sikeston Telephone Company purchased from Fassett the Charleston Telephone Company and Dexter and Bloomfield exchanges.<sup>64</sup> In 1903 it was purchased by the Southeast Missouri Telephone Company, a Bell subsidiary.

Officials of the Southeast Missouri Telephone Co. in 1910 were: E. J. Deal, president; Jas. L. Byrd, vice-president; E. C. Blomeyer, secretary-treasurer; J. E. Armstrong, general manager. Directors were: E. J. Deal, Jas. L. Byrd, J. E. Armstrong, R. B. Boyce, Scott Alexander, Paul B. Moore, Charles D. Matthews, Jr., Edward C. Matthews, and S. B. Hunter.<sup>65</sup>

The phone customers of 1903 were:

- 75 Ashby, Geo. . . . . office
- 90 Byrd, James L. . . . . residence
- 10 Brown & Lindsay . . . . . livery
- 11 Bryant Mer. Co. . . . . store
- 18 Bondurant & Ogilvie . . . . . store
- 27 Bryant, W. C. . . . . residence
- 33 Blomeyer & Son . . . . . store
- 35 Burns & Baker . . . . . grocery
- 36 B. & L. Drug Co. . . . . store
- 58 Buckner, D. B. . . . . residence
- 64 Big Four Mer. Co. . . . . store
- 73 Babb, W. S. . . . . livery
- 78 Boyce, R. B. . . . . residence
- 92 Bryant, W. C. . . . . office
- 59 Crenshaw . . . . . residence
- 1 Chapman, Dr. A. W. . . . . office
- 2 Charleston Heading Factory
- 3 Charleston Bank
- 15 Commonwealth Trust Co.
- 19 Clarkson, I. T. . . . . residence
- 21 Chapman, Dr. A. W. . . . . residence
- 43 Clarkson, I. T. . . . . grocery
- 51 Charleston Milling Co.
- 75 County Collector's Office
- 97 County Court Office
- 62 Danforth, L. W., Lbr. . . . . office
- 48 Danforth, L. W. . . . . residence
- 23 Dick, D. L. . . . . residence
- 26 Deal, E. P. . . . . residence



30	Deal, E. J. . . . .	residence
38	Dever, J. L. . . . .	residence
31	Doughty Meat Market	
16	Enterprise, Weekly Office	
29	Electric Light Co. . . . .	plant
80	Express Co. . . . .	office
40	Fassett, E. S. . . . .	residence
52	Finley, Mrs. L. E. . . . .	residence
99	Finley, Dr. B. E. . . . .	office
63	Frank, I. M. . . . .	residence
79	Farm Line	
56	Finley, Dr. B. E. . . . .	residence
88	French, Thomas . . . . .	residence
8	Golightly, W. A. . . . .	residence
7	Harris, M. B. . . . .	store
20	Holloway, D. G. Co. . . . .	store
32	Halter, Mrs. . . . .	residence
34	Howlett, Miles I. . . . .	undertaker
100	Holloway, Wm. . . . .	residence
25	Howle, Dr. W. P. . . . .	residence
12	Haw, Rev. M. T. . . . .	residence
42	I. O. O. F. Hall	
22	Jones, A. R. . . . .	meat market
41	Jones, A. R. . . . .	residence
6	Kimmell, Mrs. A. . . . .	residence
81	Kenrick Hotel . . . . .	office
87	Love, Charles R. . . . .	residence
66	Lair, F. D. . . . .	residence
69	Lutz, D. I. . . . .	grocery
83	Lee, Clay . . . . .	residence
4	Lindsay, Mrs. S. . . . .	residence
24	Lynch, Dr. J. W. . . . .	residence
50	Lair, F. D. . . . .	furniture store
68	Lee, Walter . . . . .	livery
9	Moore, Paul B. . . . .	residence
37	Marshall, W. T. . . . .	residence
74	Mississippi County Bank	
76	Moore, Chas. J. . . . .	residence
84	Martin, Mrs. Joe . . . . .	boarding hse.
49	Oliver, J. R. . . . .	residence
60	Oliver, R. L. . . . .	residence
71	Oliver & French . . . . .	grocery
67	Pittman, M. C. . . . .	restaurant
79	Russell, W. C. . . . .	residence
5	Rowe, Dr. J. M. . . . .	residence
14	Russell & Deal Law Office	
44	Rosenstein Dry Goods Co.	
45	Russell & Mattingly . . . . .	grocery
46	Rosenstein, Sol . . . . .	residence

53	Reid, Dr. H. L. ....	residence
86	Reid, Dr. H. L. ....	office
57	Rolwing, Harris & Brown store	
3	Steele, L. D. ....	residence
39	Sifler & Son ....	store
47	Simpson, Dr. A. E. ....	residence
54	Sidwell, W. I. ....	residence
72	Shelby, John D. ....	residence
82	Stotts, F. M. ....	residence
28	Stotts, C. A. ....	store
65	Shanks, Dr. ....	residence
77	Vernon, Dr. F. S. ....	residence
17	Western Union Telegraph Co.	
89	Wright Lumber Co. ....	office
	Farm Phones	Rings
	Joe Cain	---
	Geo. Rowe	---
	Geo. Bridges	---
	Geo. Elmore	---

#### Toll Lines

East Prairie, Anniston, Whiting <sup>66</sup>

In 1925 the phone company spent \$50,000 to install common battery phone service which required new poles, cables and phones. By 1929 there were 655 telephones connected to the Charleston switch board. In April of 1949 when the number of phones was increased to 1,315 the system was also converted to dial operation, at a cost of approximately \$250,000.

In 1945 the Southeast Missouri Telephone Co. purchased the "Old Jail Lot" at the intersection of Court and First streets from the Mississippi County Court for \$2,500. A building was erected and all of the plant combined with the building and equipment valued at nearly one-third a million dollars.

On January 1, 1951, the Southeast Missouri Telephone Co. and the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. merged, <sup>67</sup> and since then the town has been served by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

The telephone company added over fifty new telephones in Charleston in 1972, bringing the city's total to 4,186.

#### Theaters

The early newspapers printed items about social events held at various places. One of the first was Dr. Vernon's hall where on May 12, 1871 a cotillion was held. The managers of the dance were: Wm. P. Swank, J. H. Holloway, Benjamin Kenrick, H. Rosenstein, Eugene F. Keesee, I. T. Clarkson, William A. Knightly, James Travis, John D. Holden, J. D. Sayers, Charles W. Hequembourg, and with music furnished by Prof. Isenberg's Quadrille Band.

The following year a "Calico Hop" was given at the Charleston Excelsior Dancing Club hall with music by the

Charleston String Band.

By 1879 Bethune's Hall on the north side of West Commercial was the place for balls, musical entertainment and various programs.

Some time later most of the traveling and local theatricals, minstrel groups, drama groups, and high school plays took place in the second floor of a building on the northeast corner of West Commercial and Center Streets, first known as Bridges Hall and later converted to what was known as the Opera House. The lower floor was at one time occupied by Lutz's boot and shoe shop.

A paper of 1891 stated, "The Rutledge Dramatic Company appeared at the Opera House last night to a good audience, in the most thrilling play ever written, entitled "Jack of the Mines". The piece was well presented, and was highly appreciated. The company will remain here the entire week, and will present a complete change of program each night. People's popular prices."<sup>68</sup>

In its heyday, the old Opera House was a community asset, well arranged with a stage, orchestra pit, first floor and gallery. The first moving picture to be seen in Charleston was exhibited in the old Opera House soon after the close of the Spanish American War, showing United States battle ships moving under power and firing salvos. When smoke emerged from a cannon, someone concealed in the wings would give a bass drum a hard and loud beat.

The building is still standing but the old frame stairway on the outside of the east wall is gone and likewise the metal stairway which later replaced the frame stairway. The building is being used as a warehouse at the present time.

S. P. Loebe was one of the first in Charleston to take an interest in the moving picture business and his initial venture was to erect a high wooden fence and bleachers on the lot on West Commercial Street where Economy Furniture Co. is now located. Silent movies were shown in this open air theatre during the warm months.

Soon afterward Loebe moved his theatre, known as the Electric Dome, to the Jecko building which was located on the lot directly west of the now First Security State Bank. Opera seats were installed and silent films of the time shown.

In 1904 a new Opera House was built by Loebe on the corner of Main and Cypress streets on the lot later occupied by Waggener's Sinclair Station. It was one of the leading show houses of the district for many years. It was built, of course, before the advent of motion pictures, and boasted a fully equipped stage, orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and all of the drops and trappings required by stock companies and road shows. Odie Sitzes served as manager for many years.<sup>69</sup>

The following year Carrie Nation gave a lecture at the Opera



THE BROWNS, a Charleston ball team of about 1885, included: Front row, from left, John Russell and Will Ogilvie; second row, Jack Ogilvie, Elbert Shelby, Simon Loebe and Hampton Wade. Back row, George Bridges, Hance Rouse, Morton Brown, George Whitcomb and Everett Weatherly. (Bridges is on left with top hat.)

*The Loebe Opera House . . . 1902—1926*





House. The local editor was not much impressed with her speech and concluded, "The sale of her souvenir hatchets and her book must have netted her a nice sum". In 1913 Blind Boone and his company performed at the Opera House.

By 1910 Loebe owned Loebe Theatre, Dreamland Picture Show, and The Electric Dome.<sup>70</sup> The Electric Dome was partially destroyed by fire in 1913. It was remodeled and renamed the Airdome.

In 1914 the American Photoplay Theaters Co. of Memphis, Tennessee, bought the Loebe Theaters which were: Gem Theatre, The Airdome, and Loebe's Theatre or Opera House. They closed a deal with Dr. H. S. Reid whereby he was to erect an up-to-date building on the north side of West Commercial Street just opposite the Airdome. It necessitated the removal of the old frame building formerly occupied by Lash and Son as a bakery. The building was to cost about \$7,000 and the company then installed the fixtures and equipment. F. C. Jordan was secured as manager and the American Theatre opened October 15, 1914.

In 1915 another motion picture house at 204 West Commercial was started by Ernest Story and Claude Edwards.

The American Theatre was sold in 1920 to Robert Woods and he in turn a short time later sold it to O. W. McCutchen of Kennett for \$12,000. In 1924 S. E. Pirtle bought it from McCutchen for \$22,000. It was destroyed by fire May 3, 1927.<sup>71</sup>

For a time motion pictures were shown in the Y.M.C.A. building but this was not satisfactory so the "Armory Theatre" as it was called moved to the remodeled I. O. O. F. building on West Commercial.

Within the next two years O. W. McCutchen had once again built a new American Theater in Charleston on East Commercial Street, and the first talking picture to be shown in Charleston was "The Rainbow" on December 15, 1929. In May of 1947 fire destroyed the inside of the building but it was remodeled and again opened.

In 1941 McCutchen built a second theater in Charleston on West Commercial Street for around \$65,000 and with a seating capacity of from nine hundred to one thousand. Clarence Staples was the general contractor. It was named The Gem Theatre and opened on November 13, 1941.<sup>72</sup>

At the present time this building has been purchased by Urban Renewal and in the near future will be razed to make room for a parking lot. The theater on East Commercial is still in operation and is now owned by the Malco Co. of Memphis, Tennessee.

### *EAST PRAIRIE*

The fourth settlement to become a part of Mississippi County was Hibbard, later to be renamed East Prairie. Around 1840

most of the site that would later become St. James Township was a dense woodland, marshy and often covered with water. Several farms had been cleared on ridges and they formed a network around what became the city of East Prairie.

"Uncle Hollie" Henderson claimed to have cleared the first brush from the ground where East Prairie now stands in the year 1862. He later owned a large tract of farm land on Island six. M. D. Hamner claimed to be the first citizen of what was later East Prairie.

Another early pioneer was W. W. Harper, who came with his family from Kentucky in 1811. They came on a steamboat up St. James Bayou and spent the first night in Missouri at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James W. LaPlant in New Madrid County.<sup>73</sup>

After some deliberation they settled on a farm in the Wolf Island district where they lived two years. Each year they experienced a severe earthquake and decided it was no longer safe to live there, and returned to Kentucky. Remembering the fertile lowlands they had left behind them they returned soon afterward and settled on a farm in the Hurricane community. Their home was a one-room log hut, as were all of the others in that day, but Harper being possessed with much ambition and pride, had visions of a beautiful home. He secured hand-hewn lumber in Kentucky that was ferried across the river at Belmont and hauled by oxcart to his farm where he erected a two-story frame dwelling with four rooms. It was located near the Spanish Grant that was owned by the Durman brothers who operated a mill, store, and later a post office, known as Durman's Mill.<sup>74</sup>

W. W. Harper accumulated much land there, 160 acres of which he sold to H. H. Harper for a consideration of five dollars. In 1899 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Harper came in possession of said farm where they reared their children, Elmo and Anna. Elmo married Gertrude Grissom and they reared a family on the same farm. Anna became principal of the grade school.<sup>75</sup>

In 1846 Abraham Millar came to the settlement from Ohio, followed soon by his brothers, Franklin and Adam, and with their families settled west of East Prairie in the section that still bears their name.<sup>76</sup>

To the east of East Prairie is what was known as Dutchtown because it was first settled by a colony of Dutch settlers. Isaac Presson in 1875 settled in that part of the community. He came from Benton County, Tennessee, and purchased a farm, cleared the land, built his home, and reared a family of three children.

Franklin Millar built a home for his bride Sue, later called the Old Arlington Mansion. He died in 1870 but she continued to live there until her death in 1922. The house was a large two-story brick building located in the center of a beautiful lawn. At the entrance was a large flagstone dragged from the old family home in Virginia to Ohio and then to Missouri. The vegetable garden was made into beds that were encircled in flowers after

the plan of the old family garden in Virginia. A daughter who married Joe P. Doyle had in her possession a large confederate flag that waved over the home of her grandfather, Franklin Millar, during the Civil War. It was hand-woven and spun at the close of the war.<sup>77</sup>

East Prairie was first called "Bell's Grade" or Bellegrade after a contractor who had erected the grade for the railroad. It was later surveyed by the Southwestern Improvement Association, a corporation with George D. Fisher, President, and A. C. Stewart, secretary, and named Hibbard after the railroad employee who helped survey the lines. The town was platted as it was originally staked out by John D. Baglisen and the plat was filed in Plat Book No. 1, page sixteen with the county clerk on February 2, 1883.

In 1869 Dr. Samuel Preston Martin came from Kentucky and settled on a farm a few miles north of Hibbard. On September 11, 1883, he bought the first lot in Hibbard for a consideration of forty dollars. He erected a frame building on Lot 5 in Block 8 and moved his store from his farm to East Prairie. He stocked such articles as were found in a general store and drugs and whiskey and the post office that was recorded with the government as East Prairie. The different names of the town and post office caused a conflict in the mail service and the name of Hibbard was dropped entirely in 1910. From that time on the city and post office both bore the name of East Prairie. Dr. Martin built a grain elevator which was later torn down to make room for the railway depot. He also purchased a tract of land of approximately eighty acres, later called Whiting. Because of its excellent lumber he sold it to the Ward Lumber Company in 1892.<sup>78</sup>

In the summer of 1884 R. M. Reeder built a store on Lot 12, Block 6. Jeff Burns was a clerk for Reeder and later for Jejetha "Jeff" Hubbard, who purchased the store in 1885. Cull S. Schultz operated a saloon. That same summer a Mr. Liggot and his wife built a small dwelling in Block 7, and about the same time the Amanda Suits Boarding House was erected.<sup>79</sup>

Others who had bought lots in the new town were removing the timber and preparing to build and develop the lots.<sup>80</sup>

In 1885 East Prairie had two dry goods stores, one hotel, one blacksmith shop, two picture galleries, one saloon and a few cottages. In 1886, a contributor to the paper stated, "What we need now is a church and a schoolhouse".

On November 24, 1886, R. A. Doyle, nephew of Dr. Samuel Martin, came to East Prairie to assist in Dr. Martin's store. As time passed he became very much interested in the department of drugs and encouraged the handling of a complete stock. In 1890 he went to St. Louis to study medicine and in 1892 graduated as a prescribed druggist. Miss Mattie Martin, daughter of Dr. Martin, had previously graduated from a



# First Store In Hibbard



The son and grandson of the late S. P. Martin who owned this store building—the first in Hibbard—are living today, one in East Prairie, the other in St. Louis. This building was located on the Martin farm, and in addition to furnishing groceries and other commodities for the community, served also as postoffice. Dr. Martin also carried a stock of medicines. In later years Hibbard as a town, went out of existence although for many years the United States postoffice department still insisted upon sending East Prairie mail to Hibbard. Dr. Martin built the first brick building in East Prairie, shown in another picture.



medical college and filled the vacancy left by Doyle. In 1892 Doyle opened a store of his own.<sup>81</sup>

The papers of 1887 record considerable building in progress at East Prairie, "Mr. Jeff Hubbard is having a very large dwelling erected, Dr. A. W. Chapman is having a nice office put up and Mr. E. J. Doyle will soon have his house ready. Mr. John Bird is having a large barn built. Russell & Anthony are having another room added to their store house. Aunt Fanny Millar is having a new house built on her farm, that is occupied by Mr. John Oliver from Kentucky, a brother of Harry Oliver. There is a great demand for houses in this vicinity."

Dr. Samuel Martin, believing strongly in the future of the town, continued to buy lots and build property in the business district.

In 1888 B. B. Guthrie opened a saw mill. That year there were only four dwellings south of the railroad, the C. A. Brooks building, Webb DeField building, the Mississippi County Grain Elevator, and the Cain Hotel, erected in 1888 by J. R. Drew. The first cotton gin was built that year by a son of James Wilkinson. It closed in a few years but was reopened in 1923. H. S. Roberts also built a cotton gin around 1923. In 1937 there were three gins, namely, H. S. Roberts Cotton Co., The People's Gin Co., and Coleman's Gin.<sup>82</sup>

In 1889 the first drygoods store still in operation today was opened by J. M. Falkoff, formerly a citizen of Poland and later of Tennessee. He came to the county as a peddler, selling general merchandise to the housewives over the surrounding area. Later he purchased a horse and buggy, thus enabling him to carry a much larger stock. In 1899 he opened a small general store in the city. The business continued to grow until 1905 when it and all of the business buildings on Main Street were destroyed by fire. Falkoff continued operations with his remaining stock in a tent in what is now the city park. In 1906 he built his own store building.<sup>83</sup>

When the Ward Lumber Co. opened a large saw mill at Whiting in 1890 it brought numerous workers to the community. They began to erect buildings and more stores were built. A. J. Ryker came from Indiana in December of 1890 and erected a building in 1891.<sup>84</sup> He became postmaster in 1897 and continued in that capacity for many years.

In 1891 a two story brick building was erected from bricks molded at a brick kiln one mile south of East Prairie on Black Bayou. It was the first brick building in East Prairie and was owned by Dr. S. P. Martin. An annex was built some years later but the 1905 fire wiped out the entire structure.

In October of 1892 the paper announced, "Hibbard is now taking the first assessment of property in her history preparatory to paying a village tax."

In 1894 Mike and George Halter of Charleston were at work

# First Brick Building



The two-story portion of this building was erected in 1892 by the Dr. S. P. Martin. The lower floor served as a drug store owned and operated by Dr. Martin. He had his offices upstairs. The annex was built some time later, and in 1905 a fire wiped out the entire structure, together with most of the business section of the city. In the picture are R. A. Doyle, who is still in business in East Prairie, A. J. Ryker, Marion Wilkerson, John Millar, James Wilkerson, C. D. Mitchell and Lon Millar Drew—all well known men who figured in the development of the city and community.

East Prairie in 1914.



in East Prairie making 200,000 bricks for F. M. Wilkinson who was planning to erect a two story brick store building.<sup>85</sup>

The almanac of 1895 gives the following:

*East Prairie*

"Also known as Hibbard. A flourishing village, 15 miles southwest of Charleston and 13 miles west of Bird Point, from which heavy shipments are made during the year of farm and timber products. Bank at Charleston. A good business point. Pop. 650. John Reeder, postmaster. Merchants listed were:

Adams, Samuel, livery, meat market  
Cage, Rev. J. M., Christian Church  
Cure, Rev. M. H., South Methodist Church  
Bibrell, J. B., physician  
Edwards, W. A., butcher  
Fowler, W. H., mayor  
Harrington, W. Ed., depot agent  
Heading factory  
Jackson, J. L., grocery and confectionery  
Jones, E., hotel  
McClain, J. D., physician  
Martin, Miss M. J., drug store  
Miller, John A., general store  
Parks, J. R., hardware store  
Reeder, John, postmaster, general store  
Smith, E. C., saloon and restaurant  
Swihart, E. S. & Co., clothing  
Taylor, A. A., barber  
Wilkinson, F. M., general store"

The papers also advertised the Laclede Hotel with Mrs. M. C. Hubbard as proprietress.

In 1900 the first depot was built. It was a small frame building. At that time a telephone line was built from Charleston to East Prairie. Only four telephones were added to the switchboard at Charleston, namely, Ward Lumber Co., at Whiting, R. A. Doyle Drug Store, East Prairie Depot, and C. D. Mitchell's residence.<sup>86</sup>

Shelby Funeral Home is said to be the oldest mortuary in Southeast Missouri operated continuously by the same family. Ted Shelby left the farm at the age of fourteen and went to work for the Lair Company in Charleston, where he learned the furniture and undertaking business. He moved to East Prairie six years later, and in 1900 started his own firm, using \$500 in capital he had saved. After his death Travis Shelby Sr. managed the business and in 1951 a third generation member of the family, Travis Shelby, Jr., joined the firm.<sup>87</sup>

The Charleston Enterprise of April 24, 1901, printed the following item, "A bank examiner by the name of Seibert closed the bank at East Prairie because of the poor system of business being conducted by Cashier Nienstedt, who was also the prin-



cipal owner. The examiner placed the funds on hand in the amount of \$3,000 in the Charleston Bank pending other disposal." A short time later W. C. Russell was appointed as receiver and in 1902 J. C. Russell became cashier of a new bank that was opened at East Prairie named the Farmers Bank.

In 1902 East Prairie sent a delegation of about fifteen to the reunion of ex-confederates at Dallas, Texas, among whom were: John A. Millar, L. D. Millar, R. A. Doyle and wife and two children, J. B. Chapman and daughter, Miss Birdie, Mrs. C. D. Mitchell, "Uncle Jimmie" Wilkinson, C. C. Conyers, Sam Martin, and Miss Bessie Russell.<sup>88</sup>

On September 17, 1902, the Farmers Bank was chartered and in 1903 increased its capital stock from \$12,000 to \$20,000. On October 16, 1905, the new East Prairie Bank was organized. The principal stockholders were George H. Bridges, Edward G. Rolwing, and Walter L. Lee of Charleston and Marion Wilkinson of East Prairie.<sup>89</sup>

About the same time East Prairie had the only brass band in the county. It was organized by Prof. Ed. Ray.

In 1903 a new depot was erected at East Prairie. The same year Goodin Mercantile Company was established by F. S. Goodin. The directors were: F. S. Goodin, W. C. Bryant, C. S. DeField, J. L. Byrd, R. A. Doyle, and George Fairhurst. In 1906 F. S. Goodin bought the W. P. Wilkinson stock at East Prairie running both until November of 1906 when he organized the Goodin Mercantile Co. and moved both stocks into the C. S. DeField building.

The town's growth and development was slow since its economy was primarily agricultural and the fire of 1905 wiped out most of the business section of the town with an estimated loss of \$35,000.

N. Friedman, of the Friedman Drygoods Company, came to East Prairie from Europe and opened his store just in time to suffer the effects caused by the fire. He soon re-established his business and continued in the same building for many years.<sup>90</sup>

In August of 1905 the paper reported, "East Prairie is rebuilding on a handsome scale since the recent fire. About fifteen or twenty brick and half as many frame buildings are said to be under construction at this time with more in prospect".

A baseball park owned by W. P. Wilkinson was opened on June 18, 1905, and ball games were well attended for many years.

The following year a telephone office was established in East Prairie by the telephone company with Miss Pearl Grubbs as local operator. In 1909 night telephone service was started.<sup>91</sup>

Another fire in 1906 destroyed Dr. J. W. Martin's drug store, Hayden's Meat Market, Murray's Barber Shop, Sherman's shop, and several vacant buildings.<sup>92</sup> A month later C. B. Aycock contracted for a structure 50 x 100 feet to be built as an opera



house.<sup>93</sup> After his death in 1912 his widow continued to operate it for many years.

Ben Oliver had run a small grist mill in the early history of the town but in 1906 the East Prairie Milling Co. was founded. It was owned and operated by U. A. Swingle and Edgar Williams of Piggott, Arkansas. Swingle moved to East Prairie to be the general manager with his daughter, Mrs. J. H. Nelson as vice-president, and A. P. Halbrook as miller. It burned in 1939.<sup>94</sup> It was rebuilt and burned again in 1950.

The Union Warehouse and Implement Co. was organized in 1908 and officers were: W. D. Caine, president; F. J. Saegers, Secretary; and John Fletcher, Manager.<sup>95</sup>

A cotton gin was built in 1909 and the same year a contract was made between C. S. DeField and C. D. Mitchell and the City of East Prairie granting them the right to construct, maintain, and operate an electric light plant.<sup>96</sup> The following year the voters approved a franchise with the Southeast Missouri Ice, Light and Power Co.<sup>97</sup> In 1912 citizens tried to organize a company to be known as the East Prairie Light and Power Co.<sup>98</sup> None of these must have succeeded because on April 6, 1915, the people of East Prairie voted to grant a franchise to the Missouri Public Utilities Co. for the purpose of installing electric lights. A Mr. Marratt who had been running a small plant for a limited number of people was quoted as being in favor of it since he could only supply a few customers.<sup>99</sup>

The East Prairie branch railroad line of the Cotton Belt had one passenger and one freight train daily in 1910. The shipments for that year totaled five hundred cars of freight and were:

Live stock	53 carloads
Grain	369 carloads
Lumber	93 carloads
Miscellaneous	41 carloads
Sewer pipe	2 carloads
Hay	6 carloads
Watermelons	14 carloads
Freight in small quantities	22 carloads
Eggs	354 cases
Poultry	47,677 pounds
Fur	960 pounds
Fish	8,600 pounds
Green hides	12,400 pounds
Feathers	60 pounds
Butter	640 pounds <sup>100</sup>

In 1911 B.A. Oliver and O. B. Wright, proprietors of the East Prairie Mill and Feed Co. closed a deal for the machinery necessary for a cotton gin.<sup>101</sup>

On July 1, 1912, a stock law election was held and passed. It was the third time in four years that it had been voted on. The law was to prevent cows, hogs, goats, horses, and mules from

# Arlington Mansion



Reference is made time and again in the story of Hibbard and East Prairie of the famous old Arlington Mansion. It was built by Franklin Millar for his bride. He died in 1870, soon after the Civil War. His wife "Aunt Sue" Millar, continued to live there until her death.

running at large on the city streets.

Citizens of East Prairie were agitating for better streets and in 1913 concrete walks and crossings were laid. The same year another disastrous fire in the business section destroyed the Racket Store of Ted Shelby, the W. C. Bryant Mercantile building, Jake Tompkins Cafe, Dave Bright's Racket Store and a large two story frame building owned by Dr. Hodges.<sup>102</sup> It was, at the time, the next largest fire in the history of East Prairie with an estimated loss of \$30,000. Another fire in 1946 destroyed the buildings occupied by W. C. Pope, French Implement, Western Auto, and D & M Liquor Store. The loss from this fire was estimated at \$75,000.<sup>103</sup>

In 1915 a band was organized at the home of Jules Paul Boyer with eighteen members.<sup>104</sup> A later band was organized under the direction of H. F. Lake and they gave their first concert on December 22, 1922. Members of the band were Mrs. Bertha Marr, Marvin Nelson, Luke Baker, Arthur Brodhacker, and

Swayne Hudson.

Dr. J. S. Davis, a prominent doctor of East Prairie, before his death in 1915, requested that an automobile hearse be used to convey his body to the cemetery. A small delivery truck used by R. D. Watson's grocery store was borrowed for the purpose and C. S. Kirkindall, Sr., local blacksmith, was called upon to build the frame which, according to custom, was heavily draped in black cloth that was provided by the widow. The county was scoured for cars to be used in the funeral procession. Two years later the same conveyance was used to transfer the remains of his widow, who was placed by his side in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Charleston. In 1919, Shelby bought a Dodge hearse.<sup>105</sup>

The East Prairie branch of Lair Furniture Company was closed in 1921.

Hotel East Prairie opened February 11, 1923, with W. D. Cain as proprietor. It had seventeen rooms, hot and cold water, two wash rooms, dining room and lobby.

In 1928 the New East Prairie Bank purchased the assets and the building of the Farmers Bank, thus merging East Prairie's two banks. U. A. Swingle was elected president; Dr. S. P. Martin, vice-president; J. R. Presson, J. W. Nelson, and J. H. Nelson, directors. The Farmers Bank had been organized September 17, 1902, and the New East Prairie Bank on October 16, 1905.<sup>106</sup> The New East Prairie Bank closed its doors on November 29, 1930.<sup>107</sup>

The following year the First Bank of East Prairie was organized with Wm. H. Danforth as President and J. Riley Presson, Cashier. They bought the building and fixtures of the defunct New East Prairie Bank and opened with a capital stock of \$25,000.<sup>108</sup> The officers and directors today (1972) are: President, C. D. Heath; Vice President, George U. Shelby, Jr.; Vice President, Wm. C. Pope; Executive Vice President and Cashier, Richard T. Reed; Assistant Cashier, Virginia Hopgood; Assistant Cashier, James A. Smith; and the directors are: L. D. Davis, Richard T. Reed, Sam G. Jones, Wm. C. Pope, L. S. Watson, C. D. Heath, George U. Shelby, Jr., Edward H. Falkoff, and Dr. A. L. Weaver.

In 1935 a brick structure, built with the assistance of the W. P. A., included room for the city hall, mayor's office, city jail, and fire department. A couple of years later the W.P.A. also assisted with the water works and sewer system.

In 1972 the Cotton Belt Railroad station at East Prairie was purchased by Raymond Lewis and was moved to the rear of the Shell Oil Station on Highway 80. The building was cut in half and moved in two sections.<sup>109</sup>

Today East Prairie is a fourth class city and is operated under a City Manager form of government. The city hall is staffed by a city collector, city clerk, the city manager, and his secretary. There are six policemen and twenty-four hour radio





**EAST PRAIRIE BALL CLUB, 1916, included: Front row, from left, Dr. H. L. Gruner, Carl Adkison, Zeke Falkoff, Bullett Friedman, Dude Manor, Felix Hinshaw and Eli Stephens. Back row, Carl Jackson, Carmon Price, Thurman Price, Bert Webb, Bonnie Cook, Ferd Foley and Lloyd Bailey.**

communication is provided at the city hall for both the police and the volunteer fire department.<sup>110</sup>

### *OTHER TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS*

That the rise and decline of the early settlements in Mississippi County were influenced by the river, the lumbering concerns, and the railroads, is illustrated by the descriptions of them in the early almanacs and newspapers. They prospered for a few years and then disappeared. Those listed in the *Almanac of 1859* but not in the *Almanac of 1895* were: Fishlake, Fugett, Lucas' Bend, Norfolk, Ohio City, Rodney's Landing, Rush's Ridge and St. James, and are described in the 1859 almanac.

"*Fish Lake* is a station, ten miles from the river where Kenrick and Ward are putting up a storehouse and other buildings."

"*Fugett* is a small station on the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad between Henson Station and Belmont."

"*Lucas' Bend* is a small station on the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad between Henson Station and Belmont."

"*Norfolk* is a pleasant little village on the river five miles



below Cairo. It is a beautiful site for a town, and is the shipping point of a considerable portion of the county, including Rush's Ridge."

In 1836 at the time the plat and dedication was entered in Plat Book No. 1, page 1, it was the first platted town in what is now Mississippi County.

"*Ohio City* was laid out by Col. Hiram Pearsons. It is situated about a mile above Bird's Point, at the foot of the bend."

The plat for Ohio City was recorded May 5, 1846, in Plat Book 1, Page 8, but it later washed into the Mississippi River.

"*Rodney's Landing* is three miles above Bird's Point, and is a shipping place for a large part of back country. It has a ferry and is a place of much crossing to Cairo. The Cairo & Fulton Railroad touches close to the river at this point and it was selected by Capt. Williams, chief engineer, as the terminus being nearly opposite the depot grounds selected by the Illinois Central road for their Mississippi River depot in Cairo."

"*Rush's Ridge* is one of the finest sections of our county. It has a church, several stores, saddle shop, etc. It was the first town laid out in the county. It was established November 1836 by William Lester, James Ramsey and others."

"*St. James* is a new town laid out on the Mississippi River, at the mouth of James Bayou. There are two steam saw mills at the place—one owned by Messrs. Frick & Co. of Memphis, and the other by Messrs. Kopp and Ayers. In addition Q. Beckwith has another saw mill about three miles up the Bayou. Upon the banks of James Bayou and its tributary—the Black Bayou, there are large brakes, or groves, of the finest cypress timber in the world. There is also plenty of walnut, gum, oak and other timber. The town is situated at the main, and only good shipping point on the river for a large portion of this county and the northeastern part of New Madrid County. Arrangements have been made to lay off a new town at the Big Spring on Sandy Ridge, near the old Spanish survey. This spring is somewhat noted as being a resort of the Indians in olden times, the ridge around it being high and dry, and afterwards was selected by William Zane, Esq., under the Spanish Government, as the best point for a station half way between New Madrid and Charleston, and being the center of a large body of fine land. It will soon be a considerable town."

By 1895 eight new settlements had developed, but they, too, were soon to decline. These were: Buckeye, Crosno, Dogwood, Henson, Medleys, Tarr's Store, Three States, and Whiting, and are described in the almanac of that year.

"*Buckeye* is a station on the Cairo Branch of the Iron Mountain railroad two miles west of Bertrand, from which is shipped the product of the Grant Lumber Company (H. B. Grant, President) lumber, staves, headings, hoops, etc. Pop. 150. W. C.

Grant, postmaster and merchant." At one time there was a hotel and depot at Buckeye. Residents of Bertrand walked there to catch the train.

"*Crosno* is a post office and station on the Belmont branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad, 10 miles south of Charleston, from which shipments of live stock and grain are made. Mail daily. E. H. Dixon, postmaster and merchant."

Dogwood was not listed in the almanac but was described in the newspapers of 1893 as having been known earlier as Red Bud, then Dogwood Ridge, and finally Dogwood. In that year it had two business houses operated by Frank Holder and Sam Hawkins, a post office, a picture gallery, and a site for a school building had been decided upon.

"*Henson* is a postoffice and shipping point on the Belmont Branch of the Iron Mountain railroad, eight miles southeast of Charleston with mail daily. W. R. Thomas, postmaster and a general store operated by J. E. White. A saw mill operated by Bowser and Stoltz."

In 1881 William G. Gravett of Grayville, Illinois purchased two thousand acres of land near Henson's Station and erected a saw mill that was to hire sixty men.

The following year Henson had a string band consisting of: James Rush, Ed Moore, Charles Finn, S. Hampton and Joe Edwards.

"*Medleys* is a postoffice and shipping point on the river, 25 miles southeast of Charleston, with mail tri-weekly. In the heart of a great corn producing section. J. E. Botter, postmaster and blacksmith and F. J. Hess, lawyer."

"*Tarr's Store* is a postoffice and trading point near Wolf Island with Thos. S. Tarr, postmaster and merchant." It was incorporated as a village in 1895.

"*Three States* is a postoffice, the site of one of the largest sawmilling establishments in the state, owned and controlled by the Three States Lumber Co. The mill has a daily capacity of 90,000 feet, is equipped with the latest improved machinery, is lighted throughout with electricity and supplies the village with water through a system of pipes. The company has about eight miles of railroad running through large bodies of timber lands, and operates a steam tug on James Bayou for the transportation of logs to the mill. Pop. 300. Incorporated. Mail Daily. F. C. Zook, postmaster and mayor and Three States Lumber Co., general store and mill."

"*Whiting* is a lumber shipping village, incorporated; the site of the sawmilling establishment of the Ward Lumber Co., about one mile east of East Prairie. The mill had a daily capacity of 70,000 feet, and 12 or 15 miles of railroad belonging to the company connects the mill with its timber land lying south. Lying on the Cotton Belt Railroad. Mail daily. Pop. 300. O. W. Joslyn, resident manager, Ward Lumber Co. and mayor. W. F. Vanden-

burg, clerk. Thomas Quic, general store."

Plat Book, No. 1, page 22, shows that Whiting was platted by the Ward Lumber Co. in 1890. A tram road was used in carrying logs from the woods to the mill. One early citizen was "Uncle" Josh Rayburn who settled there in 1805 and in 1893 and still living there in a house he and his wife built in 1853.<sup>111</sup>

At one time Whiting had a population of around five hundred. The mill closed in December of 1908 when the best of the lumber on around 34,000 acres had been cut. After the closing of the mill the post office was abolished in 1909 and railroad service was discontinued. The Ward Lumber Company's mill was dismantled in 1910 and sold to Zelnecker Supply Co. of St. Louis.<sup>112</sup>

*Hough's Station* was not included in either almanac but was a settlement of some importance at one time.

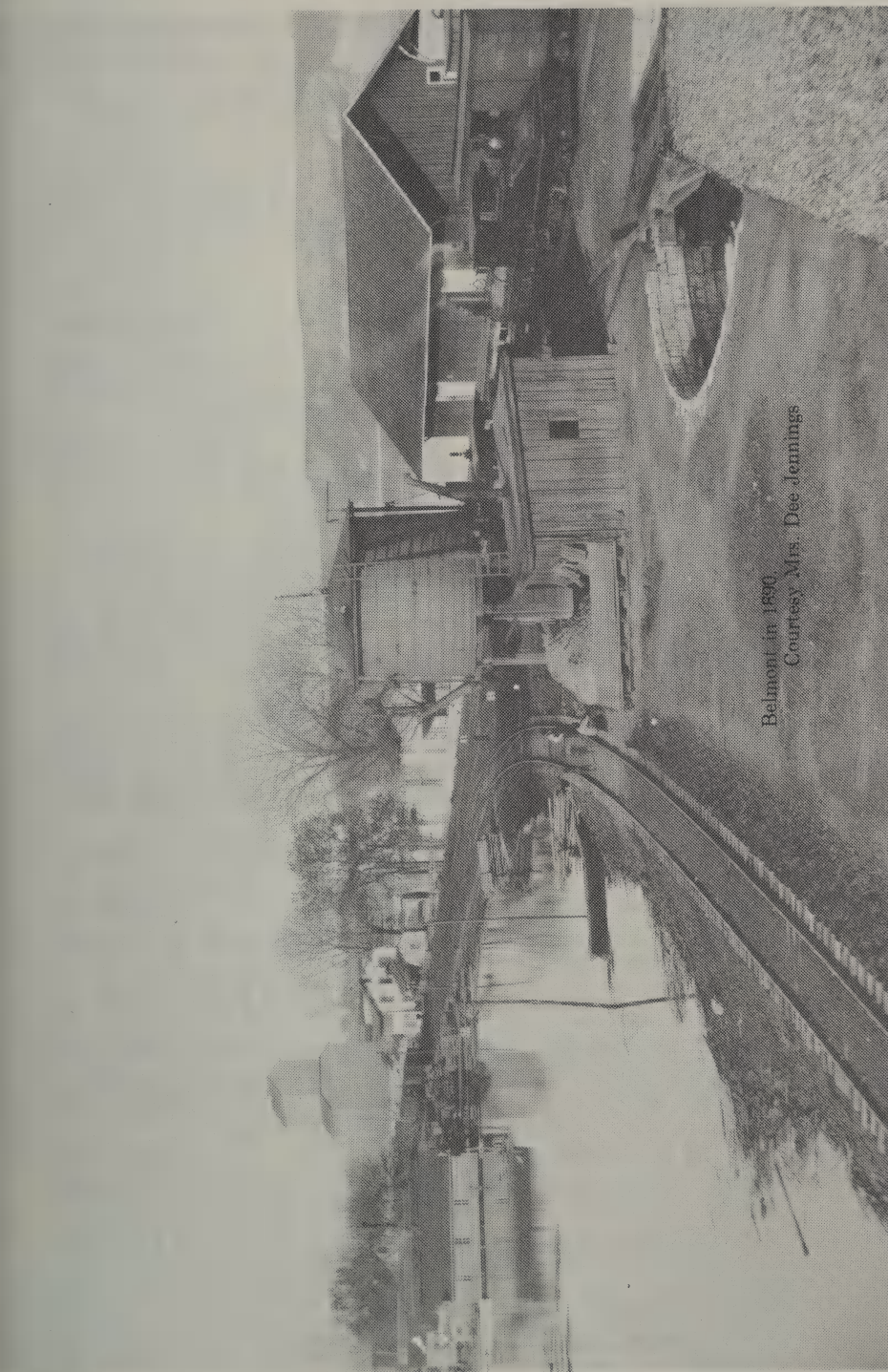
*James Bayou*, another place of importance not listed, was thirty miles south of Charleston on the Mississippi River. In 1875 it had a post office and a population of around fifty.

Two of the early settlements, Belmont and Bird's Point, managed to continue longer than those previously described, but they too are no longer towns today.

*Belmont* was laid out by a stock company in 1854 and was named after the American partner of the Rothchilds. It was immediately opposite the depot of the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, at Columbus, Kentucky. The state road through the counties of Cape Girardeau, Scott, and Mississippi, terminated at that point, it being considered the best crossing place on the river between Cairo, Illinois and the Balize—long and familiarly known as the "Iron Banks Ferry". It was selected as the probable terminus of the Iron Mountain Railroad, by the engineer, J. H. Morley, and also as the terminus of a branch of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad, to connect it with the Mobile & Ohio Railroad. The location, as far as crossing the river was concerned, was selected by Col. Child, chief engineer of the Mobile Road. In 1859, the town belonged to the Belmont Company under the act of incorporation. Much of the stock was owned in Frankfort and Louisville, Kentucky, St. Louis and the city of New York. It was laid out into town lots under the superintendence of Col. E. I. Bullock of Kentucky. The plat for Belmont was recorded October 1, 1869, in Plat Book No. 1, page 9. The plat to Bethune's Addition to Belmont was recorded October 7, 1871, in Plat Book No. 1, page 10.

The almanac of 1895 describes it as, "A landing on the Mississippi River, and the southern terminus of the Belmont Branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad, 17 miles south of Charleston, and 195 miles south of St. Louis. Connection is made with Mobile & Ohio Railroad by transfer steamer to Columbus, Kentucky, across the river. Repair shops and round house of the Iron Mountain are located here, and a large elevator for export grain, used extensively during the winter and spring





Belmont in 1890.  
Courtesy Mrs. Dee Jennings



months, is sustained. Pop. 150, Tel. W. W., Exp. Pacific, Mail daily. James McFadden, postmaster.

Albitz, Geo. M., supt. elevator

Goodin, Miss Alice, public school teacher

Griffith, W. M., saloon

Harris, Mrs. S. P., hotel

Jackson, D. W., general store

McFadden, James, Jr., general store, postmaster

Parker, T. H., Justice of the Peace

Simon, Joe, saloon

Watson, George, general store."

Lee & McPheeters were extensive shippers of grain for many years and in 1910 still averaged 150 to 200 cars annually. At that time the Hotel Belmont across from the railroad was still in operation with Mrs. J. L. McFadden as proprietor.<sup>113</sup>

Belmont was intended to be the metropolis of the state but the river floods dampened the ardor of its promoters.<sup>114</sup> All that is left today is the landing for the Belmont-Columbus ferry and the grain elevator build by J. Beth Cox.

*Bird's Point* had its name changed many times during its history. The almanac of 1859 states, "As it has belonged to the Bird family ever since it has been a portion of the United States, we hope that the name of Bird will be associated with the cognomen of the new city, either as 'Birdville', or in some other combination."

It was called at various times in its early history Bird's Point, Birds Landing, Birdville and Birds Orchard. In 1895 the post office changed it to Birdspoint, in 1901 to Birdpoint and in 1911 to Bird Point, but the original spelling—Bird's Point is still the one most used.

According to a tax receipt of 1844 Abraham Bird received a land grant from the Spanish government signed by Don De Lassus, dated 1789 for "191A Certificate 2230, Township 27, Range 17 & 18 on the Mississippi River opposite the mouth of the Ohio". A large two story house was built on this site and was moved back several times as the land caved into the river.

This area was also settled by John Johnson under the Spanish Government, August 26, 1800, by virtue of a grant from Henrie Peyroux, Commandant, and was surveyed January 11, 1805, for Abraham Bird who purchased it from Johnson. Bird also purchased land from a man named Stoker.

The settlement was directly opposite Cairo, Illinois, and became the terminus of the Cairo branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad and the Cotton Belt Railroad. At that time it was thought to be one of the most permanent landings on the river.

Legend has it the snakes were so thick that people who lived and worked there had to wear boots and that sportsmen from Charleston went to Bird's Point on the railroad to shoot snakes.

In 1859 George W. Kenrick erected a large hotel at the point

and by 1879 there were two boarding houses, two saloons, one grocery store, one blacksmith shop and a saw mill. Miss Katie Parson had a private day school with a good attendance.

The following year a petition was sent to L. H. Davis, Representative to Congress, concerning the river washing the land at Bird's Point. Several car loads of rock were received and placed on the bank near the railroad track. In 1884, a cyclone blew eighteen houses from their foundations.

During the Civil War, Bird's Point was headquarters for the Tenth Regiment Iowa Volunteers, a Union regiment under the command of Brig. Gen. E. A. Paine.

In 1880 some years after the Civil War, the paper noted, "Mayor Balkcome has made extravagant preparations for the reception of Gen. Grant tomorrow. After showing the General to the populace of our prosperous little 'burg' will probably accompany him to Cairo".<sup>115</sup>

The plat for Bird's Point was recorded on June 20, 1889, in Plat Book No. 1, page 19. In 1893, William Kenrick purchased the general store from Underwood Beckwith.

The almanac of 1895 describes it as, "A thriving village situated on the Mississippi River, 12½ miles east of Charleston, with which it is connected by the Cairo branch of the Iron Mountain railroad. It is also connected with Cairo, Illinois, by ferry. The Cotton Belt railroad has its terminus here, and both these railroads make entrance into Cairo by means of transfer boats. It is 190 miles south of St. Louis and has banking facilities both at Charleston and Cairo. Pop. 400, Tel., W. U., Mail daily, J. D. Byrne, postmaster.

Askew, J. B., saloon

Barry, Robert A., county judge

Byrne, J. D., postmaster

Byrne and Barry, general store

Chewning, J. E., restaurant

Cotton Belt Railroad Hotel, E. E. Cartwright, mgr.

Edwards, Joseph, poolroom

Hensley, M. H., meat market

Johnson, N., blacksmith and wheelwright

Kenrick, Wm. & Son, general store and saloon

Mitchels, W. C., foreman machinery and car departments

Penny, Joe, col'd, restaurant

Rattely, C. H., barber

Rawls, E. J., physician

Vickery, George, dry goods and groceries

Williamson, H. A., depot agent."

Another cyclone in 1896 nearly blew the town of Bird's Point away and it was never completely rebuilt. The paper reported, "Ben P. Kenrick, of Bird's Point has just finished building one of the finest and most substantial cyclone cellars in the state just back of his store at the Point. He had fourteen men at work on

the cellar and has made it large enough to accomodate half of the population of the point."

In 1905 a fire destroyed a considerable portion of the town. Its act of incorporation was taken away by the county court and the following year a few residents started a settlement near Bird's Point called Cary Bird.

In 1908 the railroad was still trying to save the landing as described by a paper of June 25, "Bird's Point is in danger of being washed away. It is said that the river is cutting into that point at the rate of about thirty-five feet a day. The Government has a coal barge and quarterboat there and is making soundings and hopes to save the levee. The depot is on rollers and is being moved out. Several citizens have lost buildings there, among them Ben Kenrick and Dave Freeman. At the present rate the Iron Mountain depot will go into the river within a few days."

Three months later the cutting at Bird's Point had grown worse and it was decided that the incline service be abandoned. Passengers were transferred by boat and freight by way of Thebes and Belmont. A thousand feet had fallen into the river in sixty days.

Today nothing is left of the original town but a store belonging at one time to J. D. Byrne. It is still in operation several miles back from where it originated, and is now owned by the Byrne heirs.

Five of the early settlements, in addition to Charleston and East Prairie, prospered and are still considered towns with each having a post office. Dorena and Wolf Island are small settlements. Anniston, Bertrand, and Wyatt are incorporated cities of the fourth class.

*Dorena* is in the extreme southern part of the county close to the river and still has ferry service to Kentucky. Most of the small general stores have closed as people have moved out of the county. It is part of the R-2 school district and a school building is still maintained there. Several new houses have been built in recent years.

*Wolf Island* was one of the early settlements in the county and was below Belmont. In 1859 it had two stores, a Seminary school, a lodge of Free Masons, and was considered one of the best settlements in the county. It was the residence of Judge Harrison Hough and was settled mostly by Kentuckians and Virginians. Today it has a general store, post office and a few houses.

*Anniston* was first settled about 1840. The original settlement was called Shelly's Ridge named for one of its early settlers. Later a railroad was built through the community crossing a forty acre tract of land owned by Jake Hainley, Sr. A switch was built at this point and after a post office was put in the name was changed to Hainley's Switch. The community was known by this name some ten or twelve years.<sup>116</sup>

Still later the post office department decided that the name Hainley's Switch was not suitable and sent an order to the postmaster to coin a new name. This he did and since he had a daughter named Annis, he decided that a suitable name would be Anniston. He sent this name to the Post Office Department and it was accepted. Since that time this community has been known by that name. The only place of business at that time was a store owned by J. B. Smith. The post office was placed in the store.<sup>117</sup>

In 1892 "Hainley's Switch" had a saw mill, churches, post office, and school, and by 1898 it had a stave factory, saw and grist mill and blacksmith shop. As a paper in 1894 stated, "Our burg is in quite a boom just now, as there are eight new dwellings being completed and several others going up."

The present town was founded by George F. Bromfield and his wife, Mary E., as recorded May 7, 1895, in Plat Book No. 1, page 29.

Anniston is described in the almanac of 1895, "A postoffice and shipping station on the Cotton Belt Railroad, seven miles south of Charleston and thirteen miles west of Cairo. A stave factory is located here, and considerable stock and grain is shipped to the cities, being surrounded with fine agricultural country. Mail daily.

Finley, L. E., druggist and physician

Metchen, W. M., blacksmith

Martin, Henry, groceries

Smith, J. B., general store and postmaster

Weirman, Worst and Brinkeroff, stave factory."<sup>118</sup>

The town was incorporated March 3, 1897, with the county court including 640 acres within the limits of the new city. Anniston levied taxes on the entire 640 acres. In 1908 James S. White, Homer Lynn and J. L. Busby, local residents, refused to pay and sued the village trustees. They alleged that only forty acres were built up and that the other six hundred acres were farmland and forest. The trial was taken to the St. Louis Court of Appeals and the decision rendered was in favor of the plaintiffs and Anniston's act of incorporation was taken away.

In 1902 Anniston had a hotel run by a Mr. Hurbert of Cairo and in 1905 the Anniston Bank was organized with a capital of \$15,000 and J. S. White as president. They built a large two story brick building at a cost of \$12,000. Officers in 1910 were: W. S. Reddin, president; G. L. Vaughn, vice-president; N. C. Curry, cashier. Directors were: S. W. Reddin, G. L. Vaughn, N. C. Curry, J. S. White, J. B. Gutzwiler, Jacob Hainley, and Thomas J. Quick.<sup>119</sup>

The first telephone was brought to the town through the efforts of Thomas J. Quick who installed it in his store as a toll phone. The first neighborhood line, called the Home Telephone Co., was built about 1905. This line was in use about twelve



years and then replaced by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.<sup>120</sup>

Rural Free Delivery was started from the Anniston Post Office about 1908 by T. F. Traylor who was the first carrier. Later the Post Office Department changed the route from the Anniston route to a Charleston route.<sup>121</sup>

The J. S. White and Co. Mercantile Store was established in 1910 by J. S. White, O. Wilson, N. C. Curry and W. J. Melton.<sup>122</sup> In 1913 the town was again incorporated.

The Anniston Bank closed its doors in 1927 and the business district declined as the railroad business left.<sup>123</sup>

In 1945 Anniston had a population of four hundred, an elementary and high school and one negro elementary school. There were Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Nazarene and Presbyterian churches. Businesses included one cotton gin, one alfalfa mill, one grain elevator, two general stores, and two restaurants. It is still an active community with a population of 515 in 1970.

*Bertrand* was the third town to be laid out in Mississippi County. The plat was filed by Henry J. Deal and Melvina Deal in Plat Book No. 1, page 14 and certified on October 24, 1859. The dedication reads, "a town in the southeast quarter of section 8 in township 26 north range 15 east, to be known and designated by the name BERTRAND and is laid out in 25 blocks. The blocks are divided into 20 lots each, ten on each side of the alley, each lot 120' by 40'."

The almanac of that year describes it as, "A new town laid out by Messrs. Deal and Golder, at the depot of the railroad in Long Prairie. It is situated in the center of some of the finest farming land in our county and we see no reason why it should not be a place of some magnitude."

Early settlers of Bertrand included such names as: White, Langston, Lett, Smith, Gaty, Barnes, Brewer, Bush, Collier, Humphrey, Vowell, York, Cooper, Greer and Armer. In the early 1870's others who came were: Love, Heggie, Finley, Rushing, Fox, Harper, and Strickland.

One hundred seventy-five carloads of watermelons were shipped from Bertrand in 1881. In July of that year there were telegraph offices at Diehlstadt, Bertrand and Melon Switch for the accomodation of watermelon raisers and buyers. The office was under a tent at Melon Switch.

In 1887 the young people of Bertrand and vicinity met at Russell's Hotel in Charleston to vote a beautiful oil painting to the most "handsome" young lady present. They selected Miss Cora Gaty from the many contestants.

Prominent farmers around this time were: J. L. Fox, John Lett, H. L. Finley, T. J. Barnes, W. W. Gaty, A. J. Rushing, and N. B. Presson.

In 1892 the paper claimed, "Bertrand is on a boom with

twelve new houses going up. The 1895 almanac lists it as, "A station on the Cairo branch of the Iron Mountain, five miles west of Charleston, from which heavy shipments of grain and stock are made. Bank at Charleston. It contains churches, schools, a cotton gin and gristmill. Pop. 300, mail daily.

Barker, A. & Heggie, John T., cotton gin and gristmill

Burton, C. W., butcher

Conrad, A. R., physician

Cowell, J. H., grain dealer

Duncan, R. W., blacksmith

Finley, H. S., general merchandise

Fox, C. A., groceries, postmaster

Gaty, I. C., general merchandise

Hamner, M. D., physician

Love, William, general merchandise

Presson, M., barber

Stinnet, James, mayor

Thompson, Ben, physician

White, C. E., druggist

Young, J. W., Silverstein Hotel

Young, J. W., undertaker,"<sup>124</sup>

In 1905 a local telephone company put in a switchboard and started business with about fifteen phones. The Bertrand Mercantile and Grain Co. was incorporated with G. W. Fenimore, president; W. C. Bryant, vice-president; R. B. Gilooly, secretary; and in addition to the above with the following board: J. L. Byrd, A. V. Goodin, E. Lindsay Brown, Nat Lee, J. E. Tolson.

A bank was organized in 1906 through the efforts of Dr. G. R. Wallace of Bertrand and with Dr. Wallace as president; John Collier, vice-president; A. J. Rushing, James L. Byrd, and David Lewis as directors. Late that year fire destroyed the postoffice, a couple of stores, a barber shop, butcher shop, and the residence of Joseph Bush.

The Hardwick-Childress Mercantile Co. was organized in 1907 by S. B. Hardwick and W. M. Childress with Dr. G. R. Wallace, president; W. M. Childress, secretary-treasurer; T. L. Lett, vice-president. About the same time G. W. Fenimore had a general store, E. P. Jones a restaurant, and Lum Fox a grocery store.

In 1918 \$30,000 was subscribed for a new bank at Bertrand named the Commercial Bank and it was furnished electricity by the Missouri Utilities Co. It was run by Cecil Gaty and two of the directors were: L. B. Presson and P. J. Ponder. Eventually the bank closed its doors as did others in the county.

In 1945 Bertrand had a population of 374 and was governed by four elective trustees. It had elementary grades and two high school grades, all housed in one building with five teachers. There was one Methodist church. Businesses included one cot-

ton gin, three general stores, one novelty factory, and gasoline stations.

Bertrand was incorporated as a fourth class city in 1962 with L. J. Schwab as the first mayor. He did much to promote schools and churches and helped to get water for the town. The mayor in 1972 is W. C. Groves.

For a time Bertrand lost in population, but has increased in the past ten years as new houses have been built by people who mostly commute to other places to work or people with businesses who work out of Bertrand.

The Bertrand Retirement Home on the edge of the town, built first as a motel and converted to a rest home in 1962, helps to fill a need in the county.<sup>125</sup>

Wyatt in the year 1881 consisted of a few homes. Most of them were scattered and isolated because of woods and lack of roads. There were no stores or post office and mail was brought from Bird's Point. Mrs. Lee Ann Hutchison, who in 1955 was one of the oldest citizens of Wyatt, remembered that she would mail a letter by splitting the end of a fishing cane and inserting the letter in the slit and as the train came through she would hold the cane out and the conductor would grab the letter and mail it in Jonesboro, Arkansas.<sup>126</sup>

Soon after this Jasper Payne moved to Wyatt and built a store and became the first postmaster of Payne, Missouri, as it was then called. Now supplies were more easily secured, mail was received each day, and there was promise of growth for the settlement.<sup>127</sup>

In 1889 the post office changed hands and the new name Smithton was given the community in honor of Captain I. N. Smith. After a time, however, there was some confusion with the mail as there was another Smithton in Pettis County, Missouri. It became necessary for a new name to be selected and it was decided that due to the prominence of William Wyatt in the community that the name be changed to Wyatt. Wyatt was appointed postmaster and served eight years.<sup>128</sup>

The almanac of 1895 lists Wyatt as, "A postoffice three miles southwest of Bird Point, on the Cotton Belt Railroad. Daily mail. William Wyatt, postmaster."

Wyatt was laid out by K. N. Smith and the plat filed May 14, 1900. On September 12, 1900 William and Rosa Wyatt gave more land for an addition to the original site.

Origins of the village are described in the following excerpted reminiscences of William A. Wyatt, father of Carl "Shorty" Wyatt, written in 1941 in a letter to Mrs. Ruth C. Buxton of Cincinnati, Ohio. "My grandfather came to this country or county from West Tennessee some time before the Civil War. His name was Asa Wyatt, and he lived here during the Civil War, and ever since until his death in 1901. At the time of his death we inherited the family Bible with a record of all births in

his family until his death, and the same was in my possession until the terrible flood of 1912 at which time it was destroyed with many other things. My father's name was William Martin Wyatt."

"In 1895 my father decided to enter into the mercantile business, and the little village at the time was named Smithton, as there was no post office, the name originated from Captain Isaac N. Smith who was a Captain in the Confederate Army and who owned the land at that time on which Wyatt is now located. In 1894 he moved to the village then called Smithton and erected a store building, a dwelling house, and a large saw-mill and during the administration of Cleveland's last term, his business was so poor that he disposed of his store of merchandise and moved his family back to the city of Charleston, so that he would be better able to educate his children, and as he and my father were always very close friends, he proposed to sell my father, on terms of which I do not remember, 120 acres of land on which the village then called Smithton now stands, with all buildings for \$1,000 but in some way before the deed was executed, he raised the price to \$2,000 and before the deal could be closed it again fell through and finally my father closed the deal with him for twenty acres of land on which the buildings were located for the price of \$1,000 for the twenty acres."

"In 1897 Captain Smith sold his sawmill to D. E. DeField, and Son, who at once remodeled and rebuilt the mill and added to it the machinery for a new hoop factory and began the manufacturing of lumber and barrel hoops, and it was only a short time until our business increased fully 200 percent, and everything seemed to be moving along very smoothly for us in a business way, until finally D. E. DeField and son—I might add now that the son's name was Clarence, who in years later became one of the most wealthy and best business man in Mississippi County, or Southeast Missouri—decided to enter the mercantile business also. So they erected a much larger and better equipped store building directly across the Railroad and Highway in front of us, and of course took a large portion of our trade and business from us."

"Now back to Captain Isaac N. Smith and the town of Wyatt. This same old gentleman again returned to Wyatt and purchased the mercantile building and the stock of merchandise from D. E. DeField and Son and added an addition to the building forty feet longer than the original building, and moved his large stock of hardware from his store here in Charleston, to Wyatt, and again began to do a new business in that location, and this business continued until the year of 1905, at which time he began to get very old and feeble and decided to dispose of his building and stock of merchandise, and my father and myself decided to buy him out, so we moved our stock from the old building to the then what was called the new DeFields



Building.”

During this time the land was being cleared and people were moving in. The town had been laid off in lots and more buildings were erected. The plat was filed May 14, 1900, in Plat Book No. 1, page 32.

L. S. Friedman had a hardware store and an undertaking establishment managed by C. R. Watt.

In 1909 a group of business men met at the office of W. C. Bryant Mercantile Company in Charleston for the purpose of purchasing the stock of William Wyatt. The deal was completed and on April 2, 1909, they received their charter and letter of incorporation. At the beginning W. C. Bryant was named president and J. W. Hawkins, vice-president.<sup>129</sup>

In 1910 Pavey & Vowels Lumber manufacturers employed about twenty-five men and did \$30,000 worth of business annually. Directors of the Wyatt Store and Grain Co. were: O. F. Goodin, A. V. Goodin, J. L. Byrd, and J. P. Heggie, secretary-treasurer.<sup>130</sup> It was necessary that all merchandise other than rail shipments be hauled in by wagon and team.

At that time there was little interest in the position of postmaster so J. W. Hawkins accepted the position and remained postmaster for thirty years until his death in May, 1939, at which time E. S. Nelson took over the business. The stockholders of Wyatt Store and Grain Company in 1955 were: E. S. Nelson, Ruth Nelson, and Mrs. J. W. Hawkins.<sup>131</sup>

There have been five cotton gins in Wyatt, but all except two have either been torn down or have burned. In 1955 there was Yates Gin owned by Robert Yates of Charleston, and Raffety Gin Company, which was built in 1934 by Elliot Raffety, who was a very prominent man in Wyatt until his death. This gin burned on October 30, 1944, and was rebuilt in 1945 by Raffety and Company, with Mrs. Ed Parker and Hunter Raffety the controlling stock owners. In 1937 Raffety Store Company and the post office building were built and Rex Lambert was the manager for the store and Mrs. H. V. Alderson the post-mistress.<sup>132</sup>

The bank of Wyatt was organized in 1911 with a capital of \$10,000 which was increased to \$15,000 two years later. The bank was the first brick building to be erected and E. J. Rawls was president and O. T. Dalton cashier. In 1927 it was closed and never reopened.<sup>133</sup>

Smith's Blacksmith and Repair Shop was built in 1933 and owned and operated by Fred Smith. Small's Lumber Company was started in 1930 and the office for the yard was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Small, the owners. In 1945, the present building was built, as were the two lumber yards and lumber sheds.<sup>134</sup>

In the spring of 1954 Wyatt had petitions circulated on the incorporation of the new addition, the housing project and a majority of the buildings east of Wyatt. E. T. Small, Virgil

Thomas, and Henry Ward appeared in the Mississippi County Court and pleaded for the incorporation, which was granted. In February the first election was held and Ulyes Brumley was elected mayor, J. B. Small and Virgil Thomas were elected Aldermen for Ward one. Fred Bryant was hired as the first marshal of the city.

By 1960 the population had grown to 711 but in 1970 Wyatt had a population of only 562. The mayor at the present time is Hunter Raffety.

*Wilson City* across Highway 60 north of Wyatt and thought by many people to be a part of Wyatt, began as one of several housing projects built around 1940 by the government to provide cheap housing for sharecroppers. Later it was bought by the Delmo Housing Corporation.<sup>135</sup> It was named *Wilson City* after the Rev. Charles Wilson, a white Episcopalian priest, then working in St. Louis, who did much for the Delmo projects in the 1940's. The villagers of the Wyatt project knew and respected him and so selected his name when the village became incorporated in 1954.<sup>136</sup> From an original fifty houses there are now, in 1972, more than one hundred. Officers are Lommie Lane, mayor; Lonnie Crawford, policeman. Population 295.<sup>137</sup>

## WATT'S CORNER

The material on Watt's Corner was supplied by Robert D. Watt who was born in Indiana in 1899 and who moved with his family to Mississippi County in 1910. He entered Eugene Field School in the fall of 1912 and graduated from Charleston High School in 1919. His narrative, written around 1963, covers a limited area during a limited period of time but gives a vivid account of life at that time in rural Mississippi County. He revisited the site of Watt's Corner in 1963 and as he says, "Even the topography is practically unrecognizable from sixty-three years ago, largely because of the leveling of the county by the deposit of silt. The site of the large modern house my father built is only recognizable by the pump and the two cement steps which led to our back porch. The 'O'Brien' or 'Barnard' Ridge, which was originally a very important feature of the landscape, is now, I think, not really distinguishable. And, of course, in 1912 no road went south from 'Watt's Corner'. There was only a trail through the woods to the railroad stop at Henson."

Robert D. Watt and his wife are today living in Missoula, Montana. He was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1963, a position he still holds.

Two or three miles directly south of Wyatt, Missouri, a gravel road leaves the blacktop and runs directly east. This

scarcely noticed juncture is known throughout Mississippi County as "Watt's Corner". The very few dramatic years of local history from which this name derives will never cease to be a topic of conversation while memory lives in those who lived through them. And, the creative and catastrophic events of those few years are the subject of this narrative.

The four hundred acre rectangle lying  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east and stretching  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Watt's Corner was purchased in 1909 by Charles Watt of Marion County, Indiana. Wheat was sown that fall, and the following spring Charles Watt moved his family from Indiana to the newly acquired Missouri farm. In the boxcar adjoining that which carried the furniture and other possessions of the Watt family Mr. Bill Smith shipped his goods. The Hiram Craig family had moved previously, and other Indiana families quickly followed: the "Doc" Taylor family, the Fred Miller family, the John Harding family. An Illinois family named Faker also joined in the rapid fire rejuvenation of this fabulously fertile wilderness whose emergence into a modern farming community seemed long overdue to these enthusiastic newcomers. It was inexplicable that as the West was being won and modern communities established this area of such potential production and wealth should have been bypassed. None dreamed that very soon they would see the luck, or was it wisdom, of those who bypassed.

Of course, not all had bypassed. It is said that the O'Brien place was an established plantation long before the Civil War, the buildings being nearer the river. Later when the river started washing away the bank, the house was jacked up, its blocks removed, and it was lowered onto smooth round logs and rolled back to its new location. There it was jacked up and replaced on its blocks and its two great chimneys, which were torn down for the move, rebuilt on either end of the house. The slave shacks, old and no longer needed, were abandoned to the river. The O'Brien name had been given to the ridge which stretched westward three or four miles and was to become the center of life and activity of the newer settlers. On the western end of this ridge I. P. Barnard had also settled before the Civil War and the ridge was sometimes called by his name. It should be remarked that the elevation of this ridge although only a few feet higher than the surrounding area was important in a swampy, river bottom country.

Whether the Colonel O'Brien who lived there during the years after the Civil War was the first of that name on the ridge is not known, but in any event he raised a family consisting of Mattie, who never married and seemed to own the 1600 acre farm at the time of the new settlement, Maggie, who married Jack White, Con, who became a surveyor, Harry, who became a judge, and Bill.

I. P. Barnard is said to have been killed on the very day of

the Battle of Belmont.

As the conditions of war made it possible a brother came and took the widow and children back to Kentucky. Some years later one of the daughters married another Barnard, a cousin of some sort, and about 1879 the new family of Barnards moved back to reclaim her father's land. Their children were Birdie, born in 1875 in Kentucky, Wesley, born in 1882, Joe, born 1887, Will, born 1889, and Clara, who as a child was shot in a most tragic accident by her brother Will, and although taken to the hospital in Cairo, failed to recover.

It was not too long thereafter that the farm was sold to Bill Beck, Birdie married Alec French and lived toward Wyatt, Nellie went to live with them.

A Tennessee family named Corbett had settled on the north edge of the ridge not far from the river. They were old timers and may have been there as long ago as the Civil War. Their buildings were far enough from the river that when the levy came through they were behind it. As a result, water that formerly ran off to the river was held back and they were virtually surrounded by water. Their rambling, one story, unpainted house and the family graveyard, almost in the front yard, were on slightly higher ground reached over a corduroy road. They all seemed to understand and love the river, and they had more boats than others. Even when small the boys handled skiffs with skill. No doubt one of the reasons for this was that through some arrangement they farmed some of the land on the island opposite their place. This island generally known as a "tow head" contained about 200 acres and was in woods except where Corbetts had clearings.

Old Mr. Corbett died about 1911 and was buried right there. Some of his older children were married and had families, and the younger children and the older grandchildren were indistinguishable. Some of their names were Sway, Jink, Mack, Red Jack, Tump, and there were others including a few girls, one of whom was called "Charley". Neal was one of the more responsible and seemed to be running the farm when the new arrivals came in 1910.

The fact that the levee prevented the natural drainage of the water to the north of O'Brien's Ridge and caused a great unnecessary, permanent, unhealthful, swampy area was the cause of an illegal dynamiting of the levee in the summer of 1910. All representations to the authorities for a draining of this area had been turned down or ignored; but after the dynamiting, which did not quite open the levee, the engineers came and timbered a sluice-way through. Then someone built a closely woven wire fence around a large area at the outlet of the sluice to catch fish.

Another early settler was Jack White who came from Kentucky probably in the later 1870's, built a house on the trail toward Henson and married Maggie O'Brien.



In 1885 George McGee moved his family from Kentucky to the place later acquired by Charles Watt. His children were Tom born 1878, Minnie 1882, Grover 1884, Goldie 1890, and Ruby 1895. For these children school consisted of a six months summer term and the buildings and equipment were primitive. The older ones went first to the Gravel Ridge School about four miles beyond Henson despite the very long walk. Later they went to Wyatt with the Barnard children where the school had the luxury of "bought" seats. Still later the younger ones went to the first Dirk school, an old house provided with homemade benches. This school gave way to the new one about 1907.

When the McGees came practically the entire country was woods, and although it was still mostly woods when the Indiana settlers came 25 years later, including all the great areas of lower ground, yet much of the higher parts of the ridge had been labourously cleared. The McGees reported that in the 1880's and 1890's settlers going west with horses and oxen and covered wagons used the trail past their house. On their place about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of their house the McGees established a graveyard on a slight knoll which was probably the remains of an Indian mound (Mississippi County abounds in Indian Mounds). Many other families besides the McGees were later buried in this cemetery. An honest, intelligent, and energetic family they played a leading part in the development of the country. But it was their friendly hand to those in need that particularly endeared them to so many.

Around 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Cox moved into the O'Brien house: Mr. Cox to farm with the Malone brothers and Mrs. Cox to do the cooking and housekeeping for all. The Cox family had moved from Tennessee to Kentucky and then about 1900 had moved to Missouri. Their children were Clavin, Alvis, and Effie.

South of the O'Brien place toward Crosno lived another Kentucky family, the Ed Sweeneys. They were a numerous family, several of whom were later to marry children of the newer settlers. Leonard Sweeney married Myrtle Smith and Edna Sweeney married Carl Smith, the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith. And years later Lucy Smith married Joe Faker. Sam Sweeney, a brother of Ed and a very small man ran the store at Dirk and became postmaster. His wife, Lavinna, was noted both for her kindness and her enormous size. A few other families lived along the old road below Dirk and on south along the river.

The forerunners of the half dozen or so Indiana families who moved to Missouri around 1910 were the Becks. There was Bill Beck, Clint Beck and his son Guy by his first marriage, and Ellis Beck and their families, all related and all from Indiana. "Uncle" Bill and "Aunt" Mandy Beck, who had two grown children and moved onto some of the Barnard land in the 1890's, and some time later Clint Beck, whose children by his second marriage were Clifford and Bessie, acquired the McGee place. Ellis and

Laura Beck with children Clate, Roscoe, Grace, and Georgia bought land at Dirk and moved there about 1902. Scorning the railroad all the Becks had first driven through with horses and wagons.

It was Ellis Beck's acquaintance with Charles Watt and "Doc" Taylor in Boone county Indiana that later led to the mass move. In fact "Doc" Taylor's wife Susie was a Beck, a cousin of some sort to the others. Ellis Beck had a sore on his shin which would not heal, and for this reason would come to Indianapolis at intervals for treatment. At these times he would visit Charles Watt who in 1898 had moved back to Marion County onto a farm just across the river from Indianapolis. In fact he often stayed at Watts home for a week or so at a time. The repeated stories of the richness of the soil and the great opportunity in this untamed area fired Charles Watt with a determination to continue the pioneering adventures of his ancestors, and several trips were made to look over the country. Thus the stage was set for his purchase of the old McGee place from Clint Beck in 1909.

All the other Indiana families which followed were friends and neighbors of Charles Watt. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smith and children, Myrtle and Carl moved at the same time as the Watt family. On these moves the women and children followed by passenger train while the men accompanied the box cars to look after the goods and the animals. The Smiths settled near Dirk. "Doc" Taylor settled on the place south of Bill Beck and west of Watt's Corner. Their children were Alfred and Walter, two boys in their teens. Hiram Craig had previously bought an eighty on the north side of the road beyond Dirk and just east of an eighty on which Charles Watt settled his son Roy. Mr. & Mrs. Craig were the parents of Roy Watt's wife, Bertha, and had two other children just younger: Hazel and Sylvan. The Fred Miller family bought land and settled a mile or so south of Wyatt on the east side of the road. Their children were Harry and Fred, already grown, and Stella and Walter in their upper teens. The John Harding family settled nearer the river on the old road from Dirk to Miller's Landing (no connection with Fred Miller). They were in such a discouraging, swampy location and had so little cleared land that, fortunately for them, they gave up the struggle and returned to Indiana before that unknown but inexorable deadline of April, 1912. A few others were also lucky. Hazel Craig married Clifford Beck and they moved away. Mr. Craig traded his land and moved to Illinois in the fall of 1911.

The Watt family consisted of Charles Watt, his wife Minnie, sons Roy, Roscoe, Ray, Raleigh, Robert and Harry and one daughter, Geraldine. The four older boys were grown at the time of the move, but because of the death of three infants (a common thing at that time) between Raleigh and Robert, the three last named children were much younger: Robert being 10, Harry 7,

and Geraldine 5. Roy had been married several years previously so he brought a wife and daughter with him. Ray stayed briefly with his job in Indianapolis then married and moved with his new wife. But Roscoe and Raleigh, who were single at the time of the move, married into Missouri families: Roscoe a younger daughter of the Barnard family and Raleigh the only daughter of the Cox family. (Raleigh Cox was named after his uncle, Raleigh Watt.)

Charles Watt and his sons Roy and Roscoe had gone to the newly purchased farm in the fall of 1909 and put in the wheat crop then returned to Indiana. With the arrival of the family and possessions in the spring of 1910 work got under way at a feverish pitch. A large modern house had to be built, a large barn and other outbuildings had to be constructed. The farm had to be fenced, more land cleared, ditches dug, and a road built. Also more stock and machinery had to be secured. The above was enough to give anyone pause but in addition the neighbors from Wyatt to Watt's farm to the river and down the levee must cooperate in building a telephone line which would link them each to the other and to the outside world. It was well that Charles Watt and his family worked hard, and that they fired the whole with their planning and their energy, for fate was to give them all exactly two years from that spring of 1910 to work their wonders before calling a halt with the catastrophe that would inexorably alter both the face of the land and the life of everyone therein.

When they first arrived the family lived in a little shack at the corner of the north eighty which was in woods. This was until a new six room shell of a house which Grover McGee had built could be moved to its new location, rebuilt, and a large dining room, kitchen, and bath could be added. A large fireplace at the kitchen end of the dining room was the center of social life, seemed to anchor the house to the ground, and provided a flue for the range in the kitchen at its back. The stoves in the front part of the house were seldom used, but the three bedrooms upstairs and the one down were usually all needed.

In this day of the automobile and truck delivery to one's door it is difficult to imagine the importance of the mail order house to rural families. Sears & Roebuck or Montgomery Ward provided not only wearing apparel and household furnishings but also bathroom fixtures and the pipe to plumb them, and perhaps the freshwater pressure system as well. The wallboard with which the house was lined, hardware, rope, pulleys, plows, etc. etc. came from the mail order houses. Thousands of dollars were spent this way in a day when prices were low. Wagons were sent to Wyatt or Henson for the shipments, and the uncrating of the goods was an event. Trips were made to Charleston for needed items also and soon there was a house the likes of which many thereabouts had never before been in. But more was to

come. A salesman came from some city far away to sell a home lighting plant, and Charles Watt bought it although the price was many hundreds of dollars. A well made building was constructed near the house to hold the gas engine and large tank of air under pressure which pushed the fresh cold water into the house from the pump suspended in the casson. In this building was also a shallow tank through which the water ran from the well to the stock tank out near the barn. This was for the milk and butter. Now into this building was also installed the acetylene light plant. Union Carbide was bought in hundred pound drums and fed into the plant to make the gas which was piped to fixtures in every room of the house. It was argued that the acetylene light was better than electricity, although it did have to be lighted with a match. And so more than fifty years later it may still be said that Charles Watt built the first and only large modern house that has ever been built in that part of Mississippi county. The barn was also a landmark. The old hewn log house which had once been the McGee home was moved numbered log by numbered log and reassembled and then added to on both ends and the back, and a large haymow complete with track was also added. Several other farm buildings completed the place.

These buildings were on the south side of the road about 100 or more yards from what is now Watt's Corner, but the present east-west road and the junction which is now Watt's Corner didn't exist prior to 1910. Instead an old road or trail meandered across Watt's place and onward through Dirk and to the river along the woods which bordered the south edge of the ridge. It passed just south of the buildings, and the old McGee house which had previously stood in the same location faced south toward it. A little farther on it passed the little old house or shack occupied by Raleigh Watt and his wife. Farther on it passed to the south of the McGee cemetery which was on the highest raise of the ridge and in which Raleigh Watt and his wife's first child, which died in infancy, was buried.

One of Charles Watt's first decisions was that this old road should be replaced by one on higher ground and on a section line. So it was not long before this project was under way. There is an amusing story of how a young representative of the county surveyor's office in Charleston, perhaps on the complaint of some disturbed old timer, came out to stop the project. "You can't do this", he exclaimed. "You can't close a road". "Who's talking about closing any road?" answered Mr. Watt. "I'm just making another road here on the section line and on higher ground, and it's all on my own land. However, with a good road here I doubt that many people are going to be using that old low, muddy, ungraveled one." Then he invited the young surveyor in to dinner, a common practice of the time and especially of Charles Watt, a practice accepted but not always appreciated by his wife.



Treated royally and with his ego carefully inflated the young surveyor who had come to stop the project was out with his instruments after dinner checking the lines and advising, and promising to see that metal pipe for the culverts were provided at county expense. The new road thus underway was continued another half mile eastward across Parker's place then south a quarter mile then straight on eastward again, and the old road was soon reclaimed by nature.

The next community enterprise was the telephone. All the neighbors cooperated in this thrilling step into modern times. Holes were dug along the road and poles were cut and erected. Ellis Beck was made President and Manager of the phone company. Roy Watt was the expert who did the engineering and installing. Wire and insulators, the instruments themselves, batteries, etc. were all ordered, received and installed. And, the phones worked well and were well maintained. The instruments were the large wall boxes with the transmitter projecting from the front and the receiver hanging on the "hook" on the side. Also on the side of the box was the crank with which you rang your party, and with so many parties on the one line the number of different arrangements of "longs" and "shorts" required repeated reference to the sheet of paper hanging on the wall beside the phone. So successful was the telephone that the farmers to the north of Wyatt also built a line, an exchange was set up at Wyatt, a line connected the exchange to the Charleston exchange, and soon long distance calls to faraway places were at least theoretically possible.

The usefulness of the phone can hardly be overemphasized. It had not been in use long when Minnie Watt received a call from the County Clerk's office in Charleston wanting to know whether Raleigh Watt was in fact 21 years old. He was, just was, and the call came as no surprise to his mother. He had carefully avoided the subject, but it was generally understood that he would be marrying Effie Cox as soon as the hurdle of the 21st birthday had been cleared.

On another occasion the lines were all opened and an operator in Charleston gave an eye-witness report of a lynching. A farmer out from Charleston had been murdered and two young negroes had been arrested for the crime. Although there seemed no doubt as to their guilt it was never proved that they were, for no trial was ever held. A mob formed, broke open the jail, and dragged them out fighting and screaming to be hung on telephone crossarms on the main street of Charleston near the courthouse.

Finally the phone kept everyone posted as to the readings on the Cairo gauge, the predictions of river crests, the condition of the levee, and the final break. Then the line hummed with talk: questions and answers, advice, speculation, and tentative plans. When the first rush of the flood waters knocked out the phone its

loss increased the feeling of isolation which settled upon each inhabited place.

The one room school at Dirk had been a very indifferent community enterprise, but in the fall of 1910 Nellie Barnard returned for her second year in the almost new schoolhouse. Born in 1882 on the Barnard place a little over a mile up the ridge from Dirk, Nellie had been to the Chillicothe Normal School, and although her education would not compare favorably with later standards, many people felt she was the best teacher Dirk had ever had. Almost thirty pupils showed up for the first week or so of school that fall, but as the weather became more unfavorable and the roads muddier the number fell to half that and less. But box socials were held at the school and entertainments were put on and money was raised for library books. In fact the number and quality of books which soon became available to the students of Dirk would have done credit to far larger and more advanced communities. The favorite school game was "Andy-i-over" which, of course, with various spellings has a long history with rural American school children. The school house was ideally built and located for the game. The roof had a proper slope with no valleys or gutters and there were no obstructions at either end of the building. In addition the school was two or three feet off the ground on blocks, and as soon as the ball was thrown the children on the throwing side immediately squatted down to see whether the ball was caught. This advance information however did little good as it was seldom possible to tell which pair of legs had the ball or around which end of the schoolhouse it would appear. Another favorite game was "Stink base". It was a lot of fun but where the name came from no one ever thought to ask. Much of the time, however, mud made outdoor games impossible, and noons and recesses were spent inside. In fact the so often presence of mud on shoes provided one form of entertainment which was strictly illegal, but then the teacher's eyes could not be everywhere. Nimble fingers would reach down beside a desk, take mud from a shoe, roll it into a ball, and with a quick upward flip attach it to the boarded ceiling. This, of course, provided a target for other surreptitious shots, or one might sharpen his aim by trying for some simple design. On the way home after school there were inviting sloughs and swamps to play around, avoiding the ever present snakes, and paddling among the large cypress trees and knees in an old leaky boat cobbled together from a few boards.

When the weather became bad Minnie insisted that the children be taken to school. This job usually fell to Roscoe who would hitch a team to a wagon and take, and also go and get, the children who were in school: Robert, Harry, & Geraldine. It finally dawned on the family and the neighbors as well that, far from being a chore, this trek to the schoolhouse was the highlight of Roscoe Watt's daily existence. The attraction was the school

teacher. Thus it came to pass that in the summer of 1911 Nellie Barnard became Mrs. Roscoe Watt, forsook the schoolroom forever and moved to the Watt farm which, you will recall, was just across the road from the place where she was born. Part of the time they lived at the big house and part of the time at the one time shack on the north eighty now remodeled into an attractive little dwelling.

On occasion Showboats would tie up at O'Brien's or Miller's Landing and people would go by saddle horse or by buggy to see the evening performance. Square dances, however, were the chief social gatherings of both young and old. They were held in everybody's houses but most were much too small, so the favorite place of the community was the dining room of Watt's house. Here the adjoining rooms and the 30 ft. screened in back porch for the non-participants made the large dining room an even more adequate place for the dancers. Everyone, including the old folks and the children of any size, took part sometime during the evening. In the summer time square dances were sometimes combined with Barbecues and held in the woods. An open place was found for the dancers and lightly covered with saw dust. Some of the nearest trees would be felled so that planks could be placed from stump to stump around the dancing area for seats. A wagon would be backed in with chairs or boxes in it for the fiddlers. Lanterns would be hung in the tree above the fiddlers and in other handy places. Off to the side a hog would have been barbecured during the afternoon and sandwiches were sold for 10¢. Sometimes someone would have driven to Charleston for soda-pop and that would also be for sale. Mississippi county was dry under the local option law of Missouri, but Cairo, Illinois, that "river town" and "den of iniquity", was not far away, and strong armed river men would row you across at any time for a fee. Thus whiskey came by the bottle, and sometimes the keg, to enliven and then stupefy its embibers. And so when the "Outdoor Dance and Barbecue" broke up at around midnight the heavy users were often left stretched out under the planks between the stumps sleeping it off.

It must be reported that while the community was quite free of crime during the two years now being narrated, the religious life was practically non-existent. Infrequently a preacher would come through and hold a service in the Dirk schoolhouse, and when this happened people would attend. If fate had only given the people of the ridge a few more years it is almost certain that a church would have graced the landscape, probably at Dirk, and Sunday would then have become something more than a day of different activities in order to break the monotony of week after week of hard work.

Corn was almost always the crop planted in newly cleared land because it required neither binder nor moving machine to harvest it, and although it was not an easy job could be planted,



cultivated, and gathered among stumps. Of course such land late produced big wheat crops, and the newcomers to the area never ceased to marvel at the amount of alfalfa hay which could be grown on just a few acres. In fact every plant which grew, grew luxuriously, including weeds. One particularly entangling and persistent weed was called "devil's shoestring". Upon being asked what to do about it "Uncle" Bill Beck, who had moved from Indiana years before, assured the newcomers that the only thing he knew was to "die and leave it". But the rich soil gave whatever was asked of it, and the forests gave without asking timber of many species besides walnuts, pecans, persimmons, sassafras, pawpaws, blackberries, raspberries, mulberries, mayberries, wild strawberries, chinkapins, etc., plus swarms of wild honey bees whose stocks in hollow trees could be raided or which could be enticed into hives to produce honey regularly for their owners. There was a large canebreak on the old Barnard place beginning a quarter mile or so west of what is now Watt's Corner in which Mr. Barnard had run 60 to 80 head of cattle in the 80s and 90s. One very dry late summer before 1910 a fire destroyed much of the canebreak, but the part remaining continued to supply pasture and fishing poles for years to come.

Game also abounded: wolves, foxes, and bobcats; squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and possum; mink, weasel, muskrat, and quail. Migratory fowl settled in the fields to feed and rest, and there were wild turkey. When being hunted, however, the wild turkey made himself very scarce, which in fact led a brother-in-law of Charles Watt who had come from Indiana on a hunting trip to shoot and dress a tame turkey and take it back to Indiana for a joke on his wife. This joke, however, produced great embarrassment when his wife, never doubting the genuineness of the "wild turkey" informed their entire church circle before he could explain and cooked the fowl for a church supper. The many compliments on the quality of the meat and his prowess as a hunter increased the embarrassment and made it the more impossible to confess the truth. The only solution left was to swear everyone who was in the know to everlasting secrecy. Although the secret was maintained beyond the life of all concerned, it produced many a behind-the-hand laugh at his nervousness every time the subject of turkeys came up.

During the latter part of 1910, throughout most of 1911, and later many relatives and friends of the Indiana settlers came to visit. Train connections from Indianapolis to Cairo by way of Effingham, Mattoon, or Vandalia were good, and the ride across the river to Bird's Point was the highlight of the trip. Carefully and slowly the passenger coaches would be backed down a long incline which continued on below the level of the river. Riding on this incline at the water's edge and beyond was a wedge shaped structure with tracks on its top side to receive the wheels of the coaches and carry them onto the tracks which were built on the



boat. With this arrangement the coaches could always be ferried regardless of the continuously changing level of the river. The big stern wheeler used for this purpose was the Henry Marquand, probably the best known boat of the Cairo levee. Once the railroad coaches were firmly tied down the passengers could come down the steps, walk about over the big boat, and select the various vantage points from which to enjoy the ride down the Ohio to its juncture with the Mississippi and then up and across the Mississippi to the railhead at Bird's Point. Here the boat tied up to the same kind of an incline it had left at Cairo, a locomotive backed an idler car down and onto the boat to connect to the coaches, and the train continued on its way.

Fortunately for them few of the visitors stayed long enough to contract chills and fever, but malaria was the real scourge to the people who lived there. It wasn't that the mosquitos were larger than those in many other parts of the country, but they were the anopholes mosquitos, the ones that stand head pointed down at a sharp angle when they bite, the ones that carry malaria; and they came in great swarms from the swampy land. The people fought it as best they knew how by sleeping under netting and by taking bottle after bottle of "chill tonic". There were three favored kinds of this patent medicine and each tasted worse than the other. In fact it is doubtful that any other medicines ever surpassed chill tonics for bitterness of taste. There was "Groves Tasteless Chill Tonic" but it wasn't; then there was "Yucatan Chill Tonic", and finally there was "666 Chill Tonic". These were the self-administered medications, but if a doctor was called, as seldom happened unless the number of cycles of the "bug" which caused it was so many that the fever became continuous, then the doctor would treat it with massive and continuous doses of quinine. For most people the end of the mosquito season in the fall meant the end of chills and fever until the following spring.

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Thus was O'Brien's Ridge, Mississippi County, State of Missouri in the years before the first great flood of 1912. And these were the people who on horseback, in buggies, in wagons, and occasionally afoot passed Watt's Corner over and over again in their coming and their going on pleasure and on business.

Now, let us see what they did when the thing that could not happen did happen. What did they do when the waters from the north took over their entire area and, for the longest month in their lives, used it as a passageway to the Gulf of Mexico? How did they respond to a thing so unexpected and for which they were so poorly prepared? How did they live and how did they care for their livestock when their farms were a part of the great Mississippi river and each set of buildings a tiny, isolated island?

How can one look backward fifty years and reconstruct with words a world that no longer exists, or make real an experience which time has blurred even to its active participants. Yet, so complete, so all encompassing, so overwhelming was the great flood which came to the southeast Missouri lowlands in April of 1912 that the attempt should be made.

In earlier times the timbered land in the northern states, the ponds that were everywhere, and the untiled fields even where the land was cleared, held back the rain water and leveled the flood crests as they passed to the Gulf of Mexico. But for years now the cleared land had been increasing and the ponds and swampy areas decreasing. Every few years the spring rains brought a new high water mark to the big gauge at Cairo, Illinois. Even so, southeast Missouri was only slightly affected. As the river rose backwater crept into the lower ground, which was usually wooded anyway, and when the river went down the water quietly left. Thus the people who lived on the O'Brien Ridge before the arrival of the Indiana families were familiar with backwater in the lowlands, but never in the memory of anyone had water ever run over the ridge.

This particular spring of 1912 came, as all springs do, in its appointed time. To the people of O'Brien's Ridge it was if anything with more than the usual anticipation and enthusiasm that it was awaited. So much had been accomplished in the previous two years in the way of fencing and building and acquiring of stock and tools that now they were prepared to live and farm as rural people should. Of course the river would rise as always, but as always, or at least for the almost two decades it had been there, the levee would contain it if it left its natural banks.

However, for one of those inexplicable reasons of nature February and March rains were more general, more widespread and just plain "more" over all the upper Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi rivers and their tributaries than before; and the word was passed from weatherman to levee engineers that this seemed destined to be a spring of high water. In fact, it had been a wet winter and spring in Mississippi County, Missouri also, and an unusual amount of backwater covered all the lowlands south of the O'Brien Ridge and made a shallow lake of the woods which stretched to the south as well as the newly cleared field immediately below the Watt buildings. Then came the runoff from the northern states, and as every tributary in the upper country contributed more than its share the volume of water increased in every river which fed the big rivers. And as the big rivers rose the rains in the north continued and there was no relief. Then began the battle to save the levees. The word "battle" is more apt than the uninitiated know because it best describes the fervid, concentrated activity, and the rapid improvisations to meet each new threat.

Every available man was pressed into the strengthening of threatened sections. Armed men went house to house through the negro section of Charleston and took every able bodied man who had not already sought work on the levee. Clerks were excused from stores; women and older men carried on in many Charleston establishments; older high school boys deserted their classrooms for the more exciting and highly regarded work on the levee. But the nights were long and dark, and the levee was a thin ridge of earth stretching away for miles. As the patrol walked single file along the narrow footpath on its crest the dark void on the right which meant the protected lowlands was scarcely distinguishable from the black muddy water one step away to the left. In other circumstances the soft lapping of the hurrying water in the quiet night would have been a peaceful and even romantic sound, but here it was an ominous sound, constantly reminding its listener of the thin, fragile line of soft earth and the disaster that would result if it should crumble.

Reports on water levels and the battle to hold the levee came by phone to the people of O'Brien's Ridge. There was much speculation and some preparation but not so much as there should have been because of much uncertainty. Then came the report of the break. Everyone knew that earthen levees are either held or they fail completely; there is no half-way point. So all stock was kept close about the buildings. Boats which had been planned were hurried to completion. The problem was that no one knew just what to expect. "How high will the water get?" was the question in everyone's mind, but there was no one to supply the answer.

Once breached the levee crumbled rapidly, the water poured through in an ever widening torrent, and just below the break the rushing water scooped out a great hole in the earth to make the muddy water even muddier. (It was reported after the flood subsided that the lake created measured 90 feet deep.) Such extra concentrates of silt settle quickly as the speed of the water decreases, and one result of a Mississippi flood is deposits of silt in varying depths everywhere except where the speed of the water washes away rather than allows the settling of the rich top soil. There were farm lands and miles of low-lying forests to be flooded and a railroad to cross before the water was to reach the long, low O'Brien Ridge and spill across it. When it did it was about 7:30 on a beautiful sunny, Monday morning.

One-half mile north from the Watt home across the road and across the 160 acre field to their wooded north eighty all eyes glanced repeatedly as they hurried with the morning chores and with preparations for the coming water. And then they saw it. Pushed by the ever increasing mass of water behind, the first feelers of the flood broke from the woods, sparkled in the sunlight, and tumbled over themselves in their exploratory rush southward. Very quickly the first of the water had crossed the

half mile field and was racing down the draw between the Watt house and barn. Almost immediately the culvert would not carry it, and as the water spilled over the earthen fill the last dry ground between house and barn was now covered. Soon the men-folk, who had all been working at the barn, climbed one after the other along the board fence which crossed the draw, and the last one was scarcely across when the rising water collapsed the fence and swept it away. Now all were on the house side, the stock was all in the barn, but the chickens were stepping gingerly away from the water toward house or barn. A discarded carbide can was lifted gently by the water and turned around to reveal a hen sitting quietly inside. A quick dash by one of the boys saved the hen.

A large amount of firewood for the kitchen range had been stacked on the back porch. Food, always in long supply, had been increased. A boat, newly made by Roy Watt, had been carried the day before to the back door of the porch and tied there in the protection of the house to await its element. Now the members of the family retreated to the side door of the large back porch, propped the door open and went on inside the house. Soon the chickens were quietly crowding each other up to the two cement steps and into the porch. When they were all inside the screened door was closed.

After a hurried early noonday meal the men got into one of the boats, dropped down into the deeper, quieter water below the ridge, then came up to the barn from the south. Thus the racing water in the draw between the house and barn, a current which was negotiated a few times during the flood by experienced rowers from down along the river, was avoided. It was too swift for farm people who preferred to walk and were using boats only because they had to. This pattern of the U shaped trip between house and barn was followed throughout the flood.

The main object of this trip to the barn was to save by getting into the barn some stacks of lumber which were in the barn-yard in front of the barn. The water was not yet deep where the stacks of lumber stood, and the barn itself broke the current, so the lumber was saved. It was all needed. A supply of tough gum boards was used to double floor the haymow. The cypress with which it was already floored were good enough for hay or people, but would break through under the weight of stomping of horses and mules. For it was immediately obvious that the horses and mules were going to have to be moved from the stalls in which they stood patiently in water almost to their bellies, and that the cows, although standing in very shallow water, would also have to be provided for. Fortunately it was spring time, and, with a winter just over, the mow had been emptied of hay except for one part which still held enough to see the stock through. And so the empty hay mow which was high and dry was now turned into a home for livestock. Of course, the problem of getting the animals



out of the water and up into the haymow had to be solved. A heavy chute was built where the driveway and the runway in front of the mangers made it most practical. Then one of the mangers was sawed away so the stock could be led through that stall and into the runway which led to the chute. The chute was steep, but it was well cleated, and by taking the most tractable animals first, by using strong halters and a long heavy rope which cinched to an upstairs timber took up all slack and allowed no backward movement, plus whatever encouragement both vocal and corporal was necessary, the task was accomplished. But with all the necessary preparation it was not an easy job. It took several days, and for the good health of the animals was completed none too soon. However, once in the haymow they thrived and the biggest handicap was the crowded quarters which made exercise impossible. In fact the crowded situation and the urgency of the action caused one unintended comical relief and one animal tragedy. Because of his general worthlessness the last animal into the haymow was Jack, the Mexican donkey. Space was now at a premium so Jack was forced up the chute, led around the edge of the unprotected opening, and tied at the other end. The following morning when the men returned to the barn Jack was standing untethered in the water at the bottom of the chute ready to be forced up again. A more valuable animal would certainly have broken a leg or his neck in an unceremonious tumble out of a haymow, but not Jack; he was as sound as ever, only the strap with which he had been tied needed mending. A young calf of one of the milk cows was not so fortunate. It is difficult and takes time to teach a calf to submit to a rope around its neck, and in the case at hand there was no time. So a rope was tied around its neck and the other end tied to a stringer. He would just have to struggle until he learned he didn't need to. But the poor calf never learned. Sometime during the night the rope had slipped along the stringer until he had fallen through a small opening and hanged himself.

To milk the cows and to feed and care for all the stock under these conditions was not easy. Even the watering of so many animals was a task made harder by the dislike of offering them such muddy water. All the tubs and buckets available were placed at the top of the chute and filled with the water which was everywhere. After setting for a few hours much of the silt would settle to the bottom and the less muddy water on top would be carefully poured into a pail to be carried to each animal.

Meanwhile at the house the cooking, dishwashing, and other household work was not much out of the ordinary. The chickens which had taken refuge on the back porch were soon stuffed into gunny sacks and given a boat ride to the barn to be released with those already there. The acetylene light plant,

although half under water, continued to perform until the family supply of carbide was exhausted. The water system, however was knocked out immediately as the gas engine and the open casing well itself went under water. The old pitcher pump, always a ready standby, now came back into its own. Once or twice a day the boat, which almost reached from the pump to the back porch, would ferry pure, clean water to fill the tank on the kitchen range, the teakettles, and a few big jars, pans, and other containers. It was interesting that the pressure of the water to the north turned the pitcher pump into a flowing well, and with the slightest of assistance a bucket was filled in no time.

After about four days of intense work the providing for the livestock and other emergency tasks had been taken care of and life settled into a fairly regular pattern. Now trips could be taken into the lowlands along the southside of the ridge to rescue hogs and an occasional chicken which had been lucky enough to float away on something sufficiently large and stable that it could keep dry. Hogs, however, can swim; they don't drown easily and can pull themselves out of the water onto a floating log where they lie quietly resting astride the log. To rescue a good sized hog and row him to safety in an ordinary boat requires two strong men and the correct equipment. The method is to push the hog off the log into the water and while he swims reach into the water under the hog, grab his legs, turn him over and lift him into the boat. Then one front foot must be tied to the opposite back foot and a pole or heavy stick long enough to reach from side to side of the boat put across under the rope so that he cannot struggle and wreck the boat but must lie quietly on his back with his feet stuck up in the air. In this manner several hogs were rescued, taken to the barn, and returned to their owners after the flood.

Some distance below Dirk on the old road to the river was a house which, when the flood came over, became an immediate refuge for many people. It was several days before government boats could remove many of them (especially women and children were taken out to Charleston as soon as possible). In the meantime they were crowded and miserable, and it was late at night before the smaller children could cease crying and all would become quiet. Late one night someone heard a cry for help somewhere in the flood. Several men took a skiff, and although it was very dark, made their way carefully through the woods in the direction of the sound. Yelling themselves and getting repeated answers they made their way to a tree and rescued a 16 year old Henry boy. It was by then about midnight and he had been there many hours and was scratched, wet, and nearly frozen. It all happened because he had made himself a boat and that afternoon had been trying it out and having fun shooting the most rapid currents he could find. When the boat overturned he had grabbed the first tree and scrambled up. He was fortunate not to have drowned but unfortunate in that the

only thing he had been able to grap and climb into was a thorn tree.

Fortunately for some people and their stock, what must have been the remains of a small and very old Indian Mound was in a field on Faker's place a little way west of Dirk. It was so flattened and its elevation so slight that even people who passed it daily were not aware of its existence. However, a small area, equal perhaps to a city lot or two stayed a few inches above water. Ed Sweeney and Bill Smith brought their stock here and were thankful for it even though it was just bare ground without even a bush. The second day of the flood the Fakers became uneasy about possible washing under their house and all, including the women folk, spent a night or two on this little bare island. Government boats came through within a day or two, and women and children and a few men were taken to Charleston.

About ten days after the flood first came over Charles and Minnie Watt decided that with the wives of the two oldest boys there to do the housework she and the three younger children should go to Charleston until the water went down. Because of the uncertainty as to what accomodations could be rented in Charleston, however, only Geraldine went with her in the next government boat, and Charles Watt was to bring Robert and Harry up a little later. Geraldine's memory of this in later years was her delight at getting to wear some red shoes purchased just before the flood but never worn, and that they stayed for a week, along with the Thad Snow family, at the Danforth home. When Charles Watt learned that people were being taken to Charleston on the railroad track from Henson he decided to take the two boys that way. Roy Watt rowed them the two miles to the railroad track at Henson. No trains were running because much of the track was covered with water, but handcars with trailers which ordinarily carried ties could be pumped through. In this way with two handcars and trailers, and with a goodly number of people with water often just inches below their feet, the trip was made.

To those familiar with the rise and fall and occasional flooding of smaller streams, but with no acquaintance with the great rivers, it is difficult to comprehend the volume of water which they must handle. The Mississippi is a big river whose usual flow does not half fill it, yet in 1912 it was out of its banks for some weeks, contained by its levees, before they failed. Then for a full additional month the water poured through where the levee had been and crossed the O'Brien Ridge without the slightest variation in speed or depth throughout. At last, however, the amount of water from the north decreased, the river returned to its banks, and the people of our narrative looked again upon their farms. What they saw was enough to take the heart out of the heartiest. First nuisance was the thick and slimy residue of silt which was everywhere. All houses and other



buildings which were not above the flood waters were like the Dirk schoolhouse with several inches of fine, heavy, solid mud everywhere. All books were ruined for the desks had been under water also and the books had been soaked in this muddy water for a month and were impregnated with as well as deposited in mud. Sometimes things can be soaked and yet dried out to a condition of usefulness. But the Mississippi is not called "The Big Muddy" for nothing. Its silt is so fine and penetrating that even washable clothing which was taken from wrecked bureau drawers to be washed over and over was never again more than an old stained garment ready for the ragbag. Furniture was ruined, iron was rusted, and many buildings were wrecked or deteriorated. Many things had floated away and were lost. Practically all fencing was gone. Wooden fences were swept away completely, and it was unfortunate that this was not the case with wire fences which were instead twisted and tangled and buried in the mud. Thus they were worse than useless and very seldom reclaimable even with many days of hard work. Holes had been washed in unexpected places. The one exception to the settlement of silt was on the cleared fields on the highest parts of the ridge. Here the swift current swept the rich top-soil with it, and the 160 acre field north of his house, which was about 80% of Charles Watt's productive land was now for a few seasons practically worthless. And, of course, the winter wheat crop was gone. Many of the small creatures of the woods were now extinct in the area. The telephone line was gone, not to be rebuilt, and the roads were in miserable condition and in places impassable until repaired. The flood not only changed the country-side but also changed the people. Not only were they financially worse off, some seriously so, but it was like a rough awakening from a pleasant dream. This country could never, at least in their lifetime, become the safe, secure, permanent neighborhood they had envisioned. With that interesting but cruel flood the purpose went out of their lives, and nothing was ever again the same.

What part of the presistence of the people who experienced the 1912 flood was attributable to pride or emotional attachment to the country or the places in which they lived, or what part attributable to a complete absence of buyers of farms regardless of the cutback in price, or whatever else the reasons, few people moved away immediately. Instead, the new settlers of O'Brien's Ridge reeled from the blow of the 1912 flood like a prizefighter reels from the blow which weakens him beyond recovery. Yet, like the fighter, refused for the time being to concede defeat. Of course, for a few it was impossible to be persistent. "Doc" Taylor, with his wife ill and his resources gone, rented his place to Alfred and Minnie Pierce and returned to Indiana. Others required additional years and additional set-backs before they moved away.



The next set-back was to come the following spring. The intervening time had been too short to rebuild the long section of washed out levee, and it so happened that 1913 saw greater floods in much of the north than 1912. So the water came over again with an almost exact repetition of the flood of 1912 except that the greatest damage had already been done and the people were better prepared for it. In the 1912 flood "Doc" Taylor placed a mark on his fireplace to indicate the height of the water. Fred and Georgia Miller, who stayed there with the Pierces during the 1913 flood, reported that the water stayed exactly on the mark during the 1913 flood also.

It was not only a half dozen and more intermarriages but also the two years of hearty cooperation toward a modern, civilized neighborhood that merged the newer settlers with the old. Then the shared experience of the floods completed the elimination of barriers between people as the rushing water itself eliminated fences. After the floods the never accomplished buildback began, and one by one the surrenders and departures occurred.

In the summer of 1914 or 1915 another unusual setback hit the farmers on the west end of O'Brien's Ridge. In a country of very heavy, and usually well-spaced, rainfall, a drought was not expected. Yet for three solid months not a drop of water fell on the hot, scorched earth. It was an extremely localized drought, and a very freakish thing, for black rain clouds continued to come up the Mississippi as usual and rainstorms could be observed, but they always bypassed until September. The dried earth developed great cracks everywhere, and into these snakes slithered in search of moisture and coolness.

Of course, no one thing caused all people to leave, and they did not all leave at the same time. Clint Beck, the Craigs, and the Hardings had moved away before the first flood. After the first flood the "Doc" Taylor family left, and Charles Watt rented a house in Charleston for his wife and smaller children. Now "Uncle" Bill Beck, the first of all the Indiana people to arrive on the ridge, pulled up stakes and returned to the Indiana county from which he had come many years before. The Miller family moved back to Indianapolis or its vicinity; Harry, the eldest son, to marry Christena Beuke, Fred to become the gardener on the millionaire Wheeler Estate. But Stella & Walter Miller stayed on in Charleston. Mr. Faker held on until both his sons were drafted in W. W. I and then in 1917 moved back to Illinois. Alfred and Minnie (McGee) Pierce moved to Indianapolis in 1918 where for many years he was a street car motorman.

Ellis Beck, that one man, rural chamber of commerce, who had followed his cousin Bill Beck to this area and then returned to Indiana to fire Charles Watt and half dozen of his neighbors with an irresistible urge to move to southeast Missouri, now left the scene and moved to a ranch in northern Wyoming. A year

later his son-in-law Grover McGee and daughter Grace followed. They acquired considerable ranch land and later city property in Gillette, to which town they moved. They prospered, and their children married and prospered, and there they lived out their lives.

Mrs. George McGee, who had moved to the ridge with her husband and oldest children in 1885, died in February of 1921. Shortly there-after her sons Tom and Goldie also went to Wyoming where they lived for six or seven years before moving permanently to Indianapolis. Bill Smith and his children Myrtle and Carl, both of whom had married children of Ed Sweeney, farmed several places before being the last of the Indiana settlers to return to that state. But return he eventually did, and the entire Sweeney family also moved to Indiana.

Not too many years had passed before almost all the people whose experiences have been narrated here had quit the country. Exceptions were Guy Beck who continued to farm his land for many years until his death, and Clate Beck, the oldest son of Ellis, who spent his long life in the meat business at Wyatt. The Indiana settlers who returned to the area just outside Indianapolis found, the growing city already encroaching upon the farms and gardens which they had previously tended. And they were never again quite able to return to the life or situation which they had left.

In the fall of 1917 Charles Watt at long last gave up the farm. He traded it for a grocery store and a house at Charleston, and perhaps the Illinois farm was somewhere in the deal. (Roscoe Watt later farmed this Illinois farm for several years. It seemed to be typical of Charles Watt's luck in financial matters that shortly after the Illinois farm was sold the Centralia oil strike brought a fortune to the new owners.)

It was during this period that the world experienced the great flu epidemic, and in Charleston as in many other places the undertakers were worked to the limit to bury so many people. The rural people were especially hard pressed to secure decent burials for their dead. It was in this emergency that the store's new Studebaker truck was pressed into this service. Robert Watt, then eighteen, became the driver and amateur undertaker. On one such occasion such muddy roads were encountered on the long trip that the pitiful little funeral procession, consisting of the truck and one old car, did not reach the cemetery until after dark. The newly dug grave was waiting, so with the headlights of the truck and car for illumination the wooden box containing the casket was lowered into the grave. It only started down, however, before it stuck. The grave diggers had mismeasured, and the opening was not large enough. It was, therefore, necessary to pull the box back out and set it aside while the digging of the grave was completed. Then the wooden box with its casket and the deceased was lowered into the grave

and covered up.

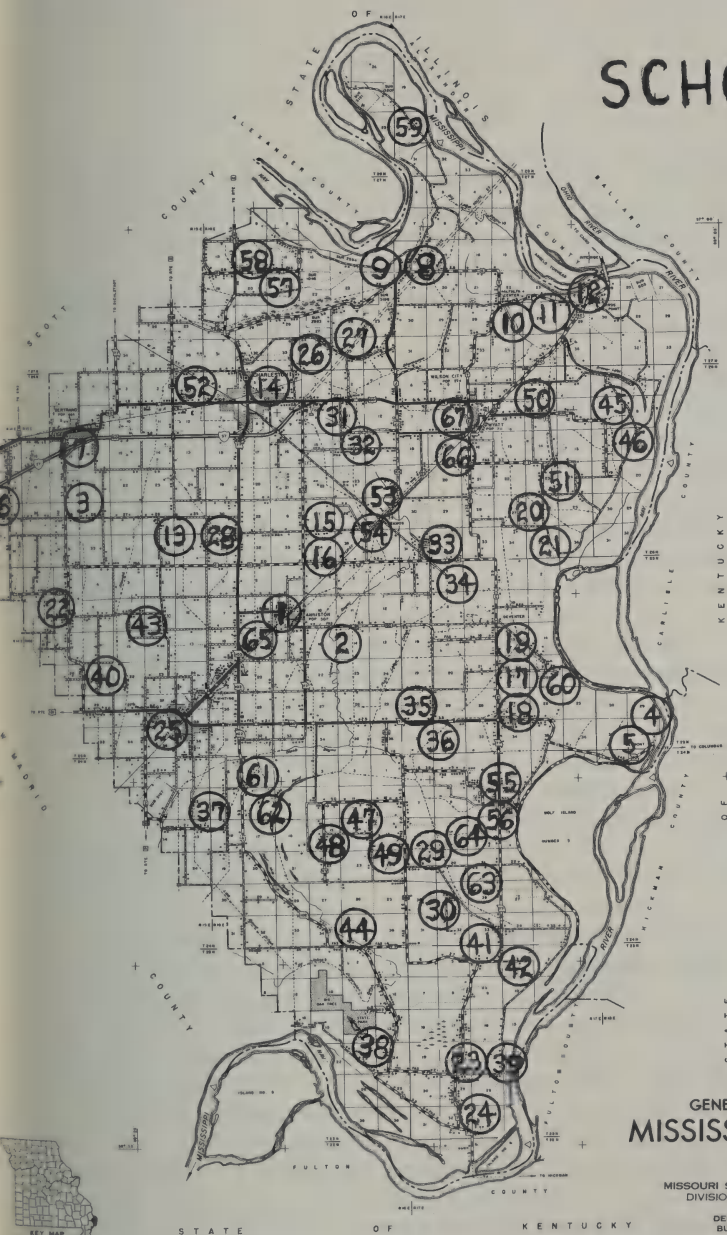
Charles Watt returned with his family to Indianapolis, moved them into a very modest, mortgaged home, and went into the garage business with his son Roy at the north edge of Indianapolis at the corner of 42nd Street and College Avenue.

In all the remaining 22 years of his life Charles Watt never really forgave himself for his mistakes in judgement. It was not that he respected or valued a wealthy man more than a poor one, or that he wanted leisure or luxury, for he didn't. It was more of a deep yearning to prove to himself that he was, in the things that had mattered to them, the equal of his father; and it was a tragedy that in all his later life he considered himself a total and unworthy failure. Actually the Missouri Decade was a never-to-be-forgotten period of rich and often unusual experiences, a time of testing and growth for both the older and younger children, a slice of eternity sufficiently different that its participants were never in later years to complain that theirs had been humdrum, dull, and uneventful lives.

There were seventy-seven schools in Mississippi County in 1940. They are located on the map by number.

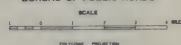
- |                  |                   |                       |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Anniston      | 23. Dorena 1      | 45. Norfolk 1         |
| 2. Anniston 2    | 24. Dorena 2      | 46. Norfolk 2         |
| 3. Armer         | 25. East Prairie  | 47. Pinhook 1         |
| 4. Belmont 1     | 26. Fish Lake 1   | 48. Pinhook 2         |
| 5. Belmont 2     | 27. Fish Lake 2   | 49. Pinhook 3         |
| 6. Bement        | 28. Fox           | 50. Rush Ridge 1      |
| 7. Bertrand      | 29. Gray 1        | 51. Rush Ridge 2      |
| 8. Big Lake 1    | 30. Gray 2        | 52. Russell           |
| 9. Big Lake 2    | 31. Grigsby 1     | 53. Samos 1           |
| 10. Birds Mill 1 | 32. Grigsby 2     | 54. Samos 2           |
| 11. Birds Mill 2 | 33. Henson 1      | 55. Sassafras Ridge 1 |
| 12. Bird's Point | 34. Henson 2      | 56. Sassafras Ridge 2 |
| 13. Bridges      | 35. Holloway 1    | 57. Texas Bend 1      |
| 14. Charleston   | 36. Holloway 2    | 58. Texas Bend 2      |
| 15. Concord 1    | 37. Hurricane     | 59. Thompsons Bend    |
| 16. Concord 2    | 38. James Bayou   | 60. Upper Crosno      |
| 17. Crosno 1     | 39. Locust Grove  | 61. Windyville 1      |
| 18. Crosno 2     | 40. Lower Dogwood | 62. Windyville 2      |
| 19. Deventer     | 41. Medley 1      | 63. Wolf Island 1     |
| 20. Dirk 1       | 42. Medley 2      | 64. Wolf Island 2     |
| 21. Dirk 2       | 43. Millar        | 65. Wool Ridge        |
| 22. Dogwood      | 44. Mounds        | 66. Wyatt 1           |
|                  |                   | 67. Wyatt 2           |

# SCHOOLS



## GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP MISSISSIPPI COUNTY MISSOURI

ISSUED BY THE  
MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS





## Chapter VIII

### *SCHOOLS*

Up to 1804 when the Louisiana Territory became a part of the United States there had been but few attempts made in Missouri to provide schools. There seems to have been no effort to preserve a record of those occasional schools.<sup>1</sup>

After 1804 there were two movements to provide systems of education. The first was to provide schools independent of the state and alongside this was a movement to form a system of public education which seems to have come into the state from Virginia. However, it was not until 1874 that really adequate provision was made for public education. Before that time the public schools existed side by side with private schools and were in most places of far less importance.<sup>2</sup>

Private schools in Southeast Missouri of an elementary character were usually either subscription schools or else the elementary department of an academy. There were two kinds of academics, those chartered by the state and those which existed without a charter. The subscription schools were probably the most common and the state exercised no control over them. At the same time academies which were feeble copies of the great English public schools were being founded. It is estimated that within the whole state there were chartered at least 110 academies before the year 1875.<sup>3</sup>

#### *COUNTY*

The first school established in Mississippi County, outside of Indian Grove School in what later became Charleston, was the Wolf Island Educational Society chartered in 1851. It directed the educational affairs in a territory comprising about thirty square miles, holding school for from four to six months each year in two poorly equipped and inadequate school rooms.<sup>4</sup>

It was known as the Wolf Island Seminary and Thomas Beckwith, who went to school there, described it in his recollections, "I first went to school back of Wolf Island. The schoolhouse was built of rude logs, notched down at the corner and covered with four-foot boards. There was no other flooring but old Mother earth, no chinking or daubing of the space between the logs, no loft in the house; a doorway was cut, but no door to close it. When the house was not occupied, hogs, cattle, and horses could go in. A broad plank ten or twelve feet long with the edge against the wall and sloping out was used to write upon. A log was cut just above this desk to give light. A fire was made on the ground in the middle of this room and the smoke passed through the roof in the gable end of the house."

Prior to 1853 there was no direct county supervision of any kind. The schools were under the care of various township trustees, but the laws of 1853 provided that each county should have a County Commissioner of Common Schools, who was to have general oversight of all the schools and school interests in the county. With slight modifications this law continued in operation until 1865 when the Missouri Legislature passed a law providing for a County Superintendent in each county.<sup>5</sup>  
*Texas Bend School* (Written by Robert R. Hill)

Another early school was the Texas Bend School which was started about 1860. The first teacher after the Civil War was Barney Ulrick. It was taught in the log church built in July of 1859. Joe Becker taught in the church soon after Ulrick. Barney Banke, then living on the farm west of the church was a wealthy, influential man and one of the promoters of the church.

The men of the community got together about 1860 and built a log school house. Timber was plentiful, so the work was donated. It was one large room, facing east, and had a very low ceiling. The seats were made of planks hewed from walnut logs. The furniture was up-to-date, in one respect, for a desk was made separate from the seat. The seats were about twelve feet long and without backs. The school did not have blackboards until George C. Burns taught about 1870.

Burns taught two or three terms of about four or six months each. The first was a subscription school and the second a public school, but most of the schools were started on public money and finished by subscription. A few times the enrollment ran up as high as forty or fifty. One summer Burns taught a subscription school on the Wicker farm about three-quarters of a mile east of the log school. The room was small and seats scarce, but about fifty children were sent, so more rough seats were made, rude blackboards put up and the children were taught to read and write.

Lembeck, a German, taught in the church in about 1874 and after him the next three teachers were priests. English was taught half the day and German the other half.

Ben Rolwing was one of Burn's pupils and taught the school the first time in 1884. The first term was four months at forty dollars a month. The old school house was about to fall down and a new one was needed.

A school district was organized in 1884 and the directors elected were: William T. Marshall, Joseph Brinkman and George C. Burns as clerk. Rolwing taught an eight months' term in the new log house. This one was built entirely of walnut logs. It was a better building than the first and contained partly new seats that were factory made. Children from the homes of Hargans, Brinkmans and Burns attended school at this time. Ollie Daniels taught three years in this building.

In 1901 a frame building was erected. It was large, well

lighted and a great improvement over the old log house with its low ceiling. A wood stove was used and it was customary for the parents to furnish wood in those days.

Miss Marietta Fowlkes taught eight years, beginning in 1909. In 1911, Tony Layten and Elmer Brinkman were the first ones to finish the eighth grade. In 1914, the school met the requirements made by the State Department and was put on the approved list.

Miss Rosa Daniels was the next teacher followed by Robert R. Hill who taught from 1919 to 1920.

\* \* \* \* \*

The almanac of 1859 describes the educational opportunities of Mississippi County, "There are in the county, 1,506 children between the age of 5 and 20 years; the school fund amounts to \$3,165 cash and 2,662 acres of land yet unsold which at \$5 an acre, will make the school fund \$38,331. The money is all loaned at 10 per cent, making over \$3,000 per year, which will go far, if judiciously expended, to school the children of the county. Most of the county townships are organized for school purposes, and we see no reason why good schools should not be in each district."

During the 1865-66 session of the General Assembly of Missouri a law was enacted creating the office of State Superintendent of Schools and the office of County Superintendent of Schools. The County Superintendent was to be elected at the general election in November 1866 and every two years thereafter. His qualifications were: 1. qualified voter; 2. competent public school teacher of good moral character.

This law was not popular and was repealed in 1872 and provision was made for a County School Commissioner to examine and license teachers. The commissioners were given broader duties in 1889 and a local option clause allowed the voters to decide if they wanted the office. Twenty four counties voted to keep the office of School Commissioner with Mississippi County one of those voting to keep the office.

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Anniston School District*

Prior to 1868 no free school had been organized in Anniston. In that year a school district was organized through the efforts of Joe Shelly, Hiram Thurman, Jackson Childers, and Johnson A. Vaughn. Since this was the beginning of the first district No. 1, no funds were available with which to build a school so it was taught in a tobacco barn by Miss Alice Quin, a young lady from North Carolina. This barn was situated on a plot one-half or three-quarters of a mile northwest of the later school building.<sup>6</sup>

In 1869 one acre of land was donated by Jackson Childers for a school plot, on which was erected a new school the same year. The new building was a rough box structure with only one room. It was used both for church and school. The benches were split

logs with peg legs. The desks were shelves built along the wall. Black cloth tacked along the wall served as blackboards.<sup>7</sup>

The school year lasted only four months out of a year, beginning in April and dismissing in July. School hours were from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. with an hour at noon and a fifteen minute recess both in the morning and in the afternoon.<sup>8</sup>

School was taught in this building for several years before a deed was drawn up and recorded. In the meantime, Childers sold the land on which the school was located to George M. Crosswhite, who deeded it about 1872 for school and church purposes only. About fifty or sixty pupils attended this school.<sup>9</sup>

The original district was one of the first school districts to be organized in Mississippi County and pupils from miles around attended this school. The district was so large that later other districts and parts of them were formed from it. About 1900 when the county court reorganized the school districts in the county it was changed from District No. 1 to No. 23.<sup>10</sup>

Four of the early teachers were veterans of the Civil War. The first teacher, Miss Alice Guinn, was a confederate veteran, who had served in an arsenal during a greater part of the war. William Colvin had served as a private; William Proctor as an officer in the Union Army; and Dr. S. P. Martin a Confederate captain serving the medical corps.<sup>11</sup>

One of the former teachers, A. J. Revelle, served as captain in the Spanish American War. Two teachers served in World War I; J. A. Wonderlick enlisted as a volunteer soon after his term was completed and died in service; Fred Lewallen volunteered during the early part of the war and served in the United States Navy.<sup>12</sup>

About 1901 or 1902 the second school was built. At first it had one large room but later it was divided into half and made into two rooms. A roller door was put up to separate the two rooms.

In 1910 a third school was erected. This was a two story four room frame building with two rooms and a hall on each floor. The hall extended across the entire front of the building both upstairs and down, with two stairways, one at each end of the hall.

About 1922 a proposal was made to build an addition to the one erected in 1910. It was proposed that \$25,000 be voted to build the addition. This plan, however, was defeated.

In 1923 Rufus Hohn proposed that Woolridge, Pulltight and Gravel Ridge be consolidated into one district. There was so much opposition to this plan that it had to be taken through circuit court and then Supreme Court. Tom Brown, a lawyer of Charleston, was able to win both cases for the district. As the case came out, Woolridge, which was included in the first proposal, was not consolidated. Anniston, Gravel Ridge and Pulltight were consolidated. The school district was changed from district No. 23 to Consolidated District No. 3.



In 1924 a bond issue was voted for the sum of \$53,200 to build a new brick building. The contractor was Sam Smith from Cape Girardeau. An additional four acres of land was purchased for the new building from John L. Vaughn.

This was a large brick building of two stories and a basement. The basement had two rooms, one used as a first grade room, and the other as a part of the lunchroom. The first floor had three classrooms. Two stairways led from the first floor to the second which consisted of a large study hall, six class rooms, a large T shaped hall, superintendent's office, and a library. The gymnasium had a seating capacity of about six hundred and was a place of many interesting meetings.

Even after the consolidation of the three districts Anniston school maintained one room schools in the Gravel Ridge and Pulltight districts. The first four grades are still taught there. Gravel Ridge was discontinued in 1937 and Pulltight school in 1944.

The history of transportation in the Anniston School District dates back to 1931. In the annual school election of that year, a majority of the voters approved the transportation program as required by law. The first bus was purchased in the fall of 1931 and Norman Faucett, a teacher of science and mathematics, was the first bus driver. A second bus was added in 1932 and was driven by Alvin Koerber, also a teacher at that time who later became superintendent. After the purchasing of the second bus it was possible to serve those rural communities surrounding Anniston district which did not maintain a first class high school. In 1929 the Anniston District was transporting a total of 192 pupils. These represented fourteen different school districts: Anniston, Pulltight, Gravel Ridge, Medley, Wolf Island, Sassafras, Holloway, Crosno, Belmont, Deventer, Samos, Concord, Fox, and Woolridge.

The first lunch room was established in 1942 by S. A. Richmond.

In the spring of 1948 the people of the district voted almost unanimously to build a new gymnasium. The proposed bond issue was for twenty thousand dollars. Because of some technical error they had to vote again on the same issue in the fall of 1948. Again it was approved.

In 1949 a new gymnasium was built west of the school building. The old gymnasium was made into classrooms and several new courses added to the curriculum. Anniston School District is now part of the R-1 School District.

\* \* \* \* \*

Under the state law of 1872 each township was constituted a school township, which could be divided into as many districts, not exceeding four, as the inhabitants desired.<sup>13</sup>

Early records indicate that wherever a few families were able to get together and promote interest in having a school dis-

trict and school house they usually managed to have one and hire a teacher. Often the teachers were not much older than their students.

In 1880 at the annual election in the Concord District there were only eighteen votes cast, resulting in the election of W. B. Proctor as district clerk, Frank Howlett, president of the school board, and "Uncle" Billy Trent as school board member. They voted a six months school to begin the first Monday in May.<sup>14</sup>

In 1882 Mr. James S. Henson said he would give the ground and furnish part of the lumber for a school house in the Henson community. In October of that year it was announced that the school and church building were completed and nearly ready for use.<sup>15</sup>

The number of teachers employed in the public schools of Mississippi County in 1883 were eighteen males and twelve females. Forty dollars per month was the average salary. In 1884 there were 2,486 school children in \$1,941.05 was received from the State School Fund for that year.

That same year the paper printed a notice from the University of Missouri to the Clerk of the Mississippi County Court, "It is my duty to inform you that, under the provisions of an act of the General Assembly, approved April 1, 1872, your county is entitled to send to the departments of the State University at Columbia and Rolla, during the year ending July 1, 1885, five students, between the ages of 16 and 25. Under the rules adopted by the Board of Curators, students shall possess a good moral character and shall pass a satisfactory examination in orthography (spelling), reading, writing, arithmetic and geography and must pay the fees prescribed by said act."

In 1887 F. Jordan of Wolf Island claimed his school district was in good shape. The school received four hundred dollars a year rent from a farm bought with school money and his school district paid no school tax.<sup>16</sup>

A newspaper of that year listed some of the schools and teachers in the county to commence school the first Monday in July, "A five months term of school will be taught at Fugat's school house by Miss Lila Adams. An eight month term will be taught at Russell school house by Miss Lou Adams. Miss Allie Chambers will teach a four month term at Bird's Point. Miss Lenora Chapman is teaching at the Chapman school house. Edgar M. Rowe is teaching a four month school in the Fred Vogley district. Miss Ella Warford is teaching a four month school on Pull Tight Ridge. William Humphreys is teaching a four month school in Big Lake. Mr. Harry Kennison is teaching at the Fox school house."

School count of pupils was published in the Enterprise of June 17, 1887:

Russell	57	Rush Ridge	55
Bertrand	87	Belmont	66
Bertrand Dist. No. 3	93	James Bayou	69
Armor	53	Wolf Island	70
East Prairie Dist. No. 2	66	Island No. 6	73
East Prairie Dist. No. 5	40	Mound Settlement	16
Wilkerson School	79	Bird's Point	39
Upper Texas Bend	82		
<i>Totaled by sex and race</i>			
White Boys	564	White girls	550 1114
Colored boys	193	Colored girls	182 <u>375</u>
			1489

Bertrand had 120 school pupils in 1891, with W. C. Russell and Cora Gaty as teachers. In 1893 a new school was built in the Concord District.<sup>17</sup> In 1896 Charles Conyers and B. B. Guthrie had the contract to build a school house in the school district No. 4 on Lower Dogwood.<sup>18</sup>

It would seem from these early and scattered records that every district did indeed want its own school house but that little could be done in the way of supervision for the schools in the county under the existing laws.

By the year 1900 there were 3,485 school children in the county.

*Teachers of Mississippi County as prepared by Commissioner A. D. Simpson for 1901:*

Allie Chambers	Crosno
Nancy Grubbs	No. 6
Bessie Hawkins	Wolf Island
Daisy Grigsby	Henson
Clara Atherton	Whiting
Margaret Rawls	Dorena
Callie Bibb	Bibb
Mrs. Etta Berry	Armour
Birdie Lewis	Bertrand
Emma Strickland	Lower Dogwood
Cynthia Presson	Upper Dogwood
Bertie Edwards	East Prairie
Ellie Russell	Asst. at Millar
Emily Madison	Prin. at Millar
Effie Brogan	East Prairie
Wella Clarkson	Fish Lake
May Hatton	Whiting
Miss Clara Atherton	Wool Ridge
Georgia Roberts	Russell
Ella Burns	Texas Bend
Rose Barry	Birds Point
Mrs. Etta Brashears	Norfolk
Henry Johnson	Wyatt

Jas. A. Mitchell  
 J. M. Crow  
 Daisy Grigsby  
 Jno. R. Finley  
 Ed. M. Blalock  
 C. M. Davis  
 J. J. Boone  
 L. P. Howle  
 H. L. Nance  
 T. F. Traylor  
 J. J. Matthews  
 C. Towery  
 Allie Moore  
 John Finley

Gravel Ridge  
 Prin. Anniston  
 Asst. Prin. Anniston  
 Redden School  
 Upper Pulltight  
 Hurricane  
 East Prairie  
 Grigsby  
 Fox  
 Bridges  
 Big Lake  
 Henson  
 Belmont  
 Lower Pulltight

Charleston schools-first grade, Ella Burns; Second grade, Bessie Hawkins, Rudy Crenshaw, H. L. Nance, Ed. M. Blalock; Third grade, Callie Bibb, Daisy Grigsby, Lillian Connelly, Cynthia Presson, C. M. Davis.

In 1902 Bird's Point school district built a new school house and in 1903 Anniston awarded a contract to W. R. Lester of Charleston to build a new \$2,000 school building. W. J. Nunn moved the old school house across the street to make room for the new building.

In 1909 the law was passed providing for the office of County Superintendent of Schools for each county of the state and it remained in effect until county school districts were reorganized and the office of County Superintendent was abolished on July 1, 1967.<sup>19</sup>

While Mrs. Clara Graham was County Superintendent of Schools she succeeded in having the Wolf Island territory divided into four school districts, in each of which an eight months school was conducted. Two new school houses were built, one of which was on the site of the old "Wolf Island Seminary".<sup>20</sup>

During her time in office five schools were approved as meeting the state requirements. These were: Bird's Point, Wyatt, Dirk, Gravel Ridge, and Dogwood. Wyatt school won the banner offered by Mrs. Graham for the school which could show the most attractive and sanitary surroundings. Bird's Point was a close second. Five new districts were created and several school houses built. Three of these were Russell, Holloway and Armor.<sup>21</sup>

There were seven county superintendents in southeast Missouri in 1909. In that year Mrs. Graham was the only woman superintendent south of the Missouri River. That year she had forty-one districts in two of which, East Prairie and Bertrand, there was a two year high school.

A characteristic of rural education was the divided term. That is, school was dismissed in the fall for cotton picking and in the spring for cotton chopping. To make up the time lost, school



was held during a part of the summer when children were not needed in the fields. Local people spoke of "Cotton Vacation", meaning the dismissal of schools during the busy season on farms. In Mississippi County ten schools began their term in May, June or July with time out for cotton picking.<sup>22</sup> It was the hope of Mrs. Graham to get them all to start at the same time. As cotton picking became automated in the 1950's schools did away with the "Cotton Vacation."

In 1920 Mrs. Graham was instrumental in organizing a teachers association of the county teachers. It started with a membership of thirty teachers.<sup>23</sup>

In 1930 there were 4,730 school children in the county and by 1939 the number had risen to 6,731. High schools included Bridges, Bertrand, Dogwood, Wyatt, East Prairie, Anniston and Charleston.

On July 1, 1935, J. Abner Beck was elected County School Superintendent and served until the office was abolished on June 30, 1967. The 1940 rural teacher directory prepared by Mr. Beck listed the following for the County:

Texas Bend	Lou McDowell Chambers
Big Lake	Van Merrick
Bird's Mill	Ethel Slack
Bird's Point	Orrel Myers
Bird's Point	Pearl Logan
Norfolk	Mary Dorris Winger
Rush's Ridge	Mildred Harris
Rush's Ridge	Wilma Henson
Wyatt	Sam Jones
Wyatt	Nell Elizabeth Crowe
Wyatt	Pearl Clack
Grigsby	Winifred Fish
Fish Lake	Daisy Miller Barfield
Russell	Sidney Lou Little
Bement	Zelpha Ann DeWitt
Bement	Mary M. Poeppelmeyer
Armer	Bertha Collier
Armer	Maxine McDowell
Dorena	Blanche Maxwell
Mounds	Barbara W. White
Mounds	Zadel Griffin
James Bayou	Maxine Davis
James Bayou	Anita Bebout
Wolf Island	Lucille Bonifield
Sassafras Ridge	Naomi Hockersmith
Sassafras Ridge	Juanita D. Presson
Samos	Jewell Williams
Gray	Goldie Benson
Medley	Velma J. Munson

Jeanes Supervisor  
Thompson Bend  
Texas Bend  
Big Lake  
Bird's Mill  
Norfolk  
Rush's Ridge  
Fox  
Concord  
Dirk  
Deventer  
Deventer  
Henson  
Wool Ridge  
Millar  
Millar  
Lower Dogwood  
Holloway  
Holloway  
Crosno  
Crosno  
Crosno  
Belmont  
Hurricane  
Windyville  
Pinhook  
Locust Grove  
Dorena  
Rush's Ridge  
Wyatt  
Wyatt  
Grigsby  
Grigsby  
Fish Lake  
Concord  
Dirk  
Henson  
Holloway  
Crosno  
Belmont  
Windyville  
Pinhook  
Pinhook  
Locust Grove  
Sassafras Ridge  
Samos  
Gray  
Medley

Myrtle Pettigrew  
Lorene Montjoy  
Ruby Ogden  
Myrene Underwood  
Wilma Montjoy  
Gladys Fogg Smith  
Thomas Pettigrew  
Irene Harvell  
Jane Thompson  
Clemitene Brown  
Norma Powers  
Edith Pruitt  
Leonard Bryant  
Dorothy McElmurry  
Earline Weaver  
Ann Davis  
Pauline Baker  
Arpa Hill  
Mary Barnhill  
Charles Roberts  
Leola Bryant  
Mildred Nolen  
Barbara Herron  
Ruth Burchett  
Floella Nation  
Lucille Forrester  
Aleene LaPlant  
Gladys Karr  
Marguerite Goosby  
Charles Harris  
Marie Elm  
Mary Lawrence  
Lois Blue  
Glenn Hamilton  
Delilah Washington  
Jeffery G. Jones  
Fannie Crosby  
Allie Mae Hawkins  
Daisy Bowden  
Rachel Williams  
Julia Stampley  
Frank Scott  
Juanita Williamson  
Robertta Montjoy  
Bess Lawrence  
Ruth Knox Penn  
Molly Belle Moore  
Dorothy Webster

### *Consolidated Districts*

Dogwood-Jacob Wells, Arvella Stout, Kathleen Berendes.

Bridges-J. R. Stillwell, Louise Farmer, Modena Garwood.

Anniston-Alvin M. Koerber, C. B. Lane, Norman Fawcett, Marshall Jackson, Eileen Wray, Mrs. Marsha Jackson, Mrs. Maegerie Ballinger, Dorothy Hodges, Mrs. Catherine D. Goodin, Margaret Hahn, Gusta Lorene Ackman, Hazel Eulinburg.

Bertrand-J. J. Richardson, Roy Woods, Emma Burke, Tillie Dale Williams, Hazel Voelker.

Charleston High School-A. D. Simpson, J. H. Marshall, F. F. Fish, Louise Ogilvie, Minnie King, Dorothy Lee Williams, Mary Lee Simpson, Julia Pulliam, C. A. Barner, Alma F. Barrett, Kiah Smith, Jr.

West End School-Elizabeth Burns, Ruth Swank, Clara E. Graham, Dorothy Mulkey, Frances Williams, Evelyn Lee.

Eugene Field-Mabel Roberts, Alice Faris, Mattie Henry, Robert Burke, Opal Clack, Ella Bush Oliver, Lucille Howlett, Ellen Love, Ella Jane Prier, Lella Harris, Hallie Hisey.

Lincoln-Charles Bowden, L. B. Boler, Stella Ruth Collins, Garland Underwood, Ollie Mae Noel, Frances Holt, Willa Hamilton, Theodosia Emory, Addie Hamilton.

East Prairie High School-Ralph McCullough, Hugh May, Lanis Chunn, Clifford Kirby, J. C. Montgomery, Gertrude Fletcher, Vivian Russell, Grace Adele Bright, Royal Franks, Sullivan Brigman, Raidt Lee, Helen Shelby, Lorene Oldham.

East Prairie Grade School-Anna Harper, Opal Morgan, Frances Cook, Dorothy Watson, Marie Moore, Mary Townsend, Beulah Munger, Mayola Emory, Ruth Smith, Mary F. Moore.

A new school building was erected at Bertrand in 1938 and the old building torn down. Directors that year were: L. J. Schwab, C. A. Patrick, L. L. Voelker, J. O. Bebout, G. W. Fenimore, and S. B. Hardwick, Sr. The two year high school was discontinued that year.

The Wyatt school was built by Ray T. Bradshaw in 1943 at a total cost of around \$20,000 and in 1950 a negro school building for Wyatt was built at a cost of around \$21,000.<sup>24</sup>

The first school reorganization law was passed in 1931 and in 1950 the Mississippi County Board of Education was charged by the State Department of Education with redistricting the county into a more composite school organization. They submitted a plan organizing the county into seven districts<sup>25</sup> but this plan was rejected by the voters of six of the districts, only the Dorena district approved the reorganization and was thenceforth known as Dorena Reorganized District No. 2.

In 1952 Missouri still led all the states in the number of rural school districts. That year a citizens advisory committee met at

the Charleston High School to make recommendations to the school board concerning consolidation and building programs for Mississippi County.<sup>26</sup>

In 1955 there were still thirty-seven small white and negro schools in the county. Charleston had two elementary public schools, one public high school for white children, one parochial school, and one school for negro students grades one through high school. East Prairie had two elementary public schools and one high school for white children. Anniston had a high school, an elementary school for white children and an elementary school for negro children. Bertrand had an elementary school for white children, and Wyatt had two schools grades one through eight for white and negro children.

What had started as consolidation became known as school reorganization in 1948 and on October 15, 1963, the voters of the Charleston, Fox and Anniston school districts voted to approve the formation of a Reorganized District No. 1 and on October 31, a new six member board was elected. School districts at this time now included: Thompsons Bend, Texas Bend, Wyatt, Grigsby, Concord, Samos, Bird-Rush-Dirk, Dogwood, Bridges, Bertrand, Charleston-Anniston-Fox, and East Prairie-Dorena. Wyatt voters approved annexation to the R-1 district on February of 1964 and in March voters of the Bird-Rush-Dirk voted to annex.<sup>27</sup>

A year later voters of the Charleston R-1 school district and citizens of Bertrand, Texas Bend and Thompson's Bend approved another plan which brought these schools into the R-1 system.<sup>28</sup>

School reorganization and school integration continued in all parts of the county and today there are two integrated school districts in Mississippi County. The Charleston R-1 takes in the northern part of the county and The East Prairie R-2 the southern part.

## CHARLESTON

In 1830 a small log school known as Indian Grove School was built on what is now Danforth Street in Charleston, and on what was later the site of Miss Grace Danforth's home. Today the site is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Layton. Among the first teachers were: Hartford Hayes, James L. Moore, John C. Thomas, and a Mr. Beadle.<sup>29</sup>

Four years after the Civil War the Charleston Academical Association was organized for the purpose of building a building and conducting a High School. A stock company was formed and \$10,000 in stock sold in shares of fifty dollars. The minutes read, "We whose names are hereunto subscribed agree and obligate ourselves to pay the amounts set opposite hereto to Joseph C. Moore, F. S. Goodin, Joseph L. Haw, William H. Sherman, A. E. Simpson, Messer Ward, J. L. Moore, I. H. Bridwell and E. G.



Randol, Directors of the 'Charleston Academical Association' when the same may be called for as specified and for the uses and purposes mentioned in the Articles of Association of said Company this day signed by us. In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands and seals this day of February 1869."

Messer Ward	\$500.00	Amanda B. Field	\$200.00
		(by I. B. Greenfield)	
E. G. Randol	500.00	Stephen Bird	200.00
James Smith	100.00	William Bird	150.00
James L. Moore	250.00	Thompson Bird	200.00
F. S. Goodin	500.00	Joseph L. Haw	500.00
A. E. Simpson	200.00	I. H. Bethune	250.00
C. W. Moore	250.00	W. P. Swank	250.00
I. H. Bridwell	200.00	G. W. Jackson	150.00
I. N. Smith	200.00	G. W. Hutson	50.00
Wm. H. Sherman	750.00	F. I. Jecko	200.00
James Clarkson	250.00	H. P. Lane	100.00
I. Handy Moore	50.00	I. S. Goodin	100.00
(by his father H. Handy)			
I. S. Shelby	250.00	I. C. Crenshaw	200.00
L. W. & A. H.		Mrs. Indathan Wilkinson	
Danforth	50.00	(by Messer Ward)	150.00
D. A. Edens	50.00	I. W. Smith	100.00
		(by S. S. Smith)	
T. H. Byrd	100.00	Chas. C. Moore	50.00
James C. Bryant	50.00	Geo. W. Kenrick	250.00
H. M. Bedford	200.00	L. W. Prichett	50.00
I. M. Brown	50.00	S. S. Smith	200.00
F. S. Millar	200.00	James A. See	50.00
Henry H. Moore	500.00	S. D. Golder	50.00
Beverly Parrott	100.00	A. I. French	200.00
Joseph C. Moore	500.00	Joseph W. Clark	100.00
David Baker	100.00		

F. A. Randol was paid thirty-five dollars for furnishing plans and specifications for the building. Joseph C. Crenshaw was paid \$500 for a four tract of land south of Marshall Street and on the east side of Main Street. Edens & Hammond were awarded the contract for building the academy.

Prof. Justin Williams was the first person to lease the Academy in 1870 for the sum of four hundred dollars a year. Soon afterward a frame building twenty-four by sixteen was erected adjacent to the Academy for kitchen, ironing and washing rooms. This building is now the garage behind the home owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Knight at 508 South Main Street.

The Academy did not prove as successful as had been anticipated and in 1873 the building was rented to the Public School directors.<sup>30</sup> An advertisement of 1879 stated that the school offered a full course of study from the primary grades to

the regular college classes with W. H. Campbell as principal.

In 1882 after the public school directors decided that it would be cheaper to build than to rent the academy building, a handsome two story brick building containing four large classrooms was built at a cost of \$6,000. It faced Green Street with the north boundary Cypress Street and the south boundary Pecan Street. The school was surrounded by a high picket fence as there was no stock law at that time and children were expected to stay inside the fence. This was the first year that the school was properly graded. At that time there were 311 white students of school age and 147 colored.

An announcement in the Courier of September 12, 1883, stated, "Dr. A. E. Simpson, Dr. A. A. Bondurant and L. W. Danforth, directors of the Charleston Public School, are making arrangements to purchase a 500 lb. bell to be placed in the belfry of the public school building. It can be heard for two miles when rung, which will be quite an improvement on the little hand bell now used."

After the public school building was erected the old academy building remained vacant until 1894 when Dr. John H. Hess used it for a short time for a chicken business. In 1896 the building was torn down.

The public school continued under the direction of Prof. Campbell until 1884. The teachers that year were J. H. Malugen, Principal; H. B. Haywood, Miss Belle Groath, and Miss Annie Roberts. In 1885 the school board employed E. H. Kochititzky of Jefferson City as the principal and Miss Lizzie M. Morrow as assistant.

Around this same period several private schools were offering a variety of courses. There were numerous advertisements for classes in foreign languages and business courses. In 1882 an ad stated, "F. L. Bank is in town organizing a class in penmanship."

In 1879 a Mrs. N. Stillwell, formerly of Paducah Female College and of Lovelaceville, Kentucky, advertised that she was opening a school in the Baptist Church for young ladies and for girls in the primary studies.

In 1887 the newspaper lists Prof. H. L. McCleary as Principal and Miss Lizzie Holloway, Miss Annie Roberts and Prof. C. M. Hall as teachers of the public school. That year there were enrolled 209 white and 53 colored students. The four white teachers and one colored teacher were employed at salaries ranging from forty to ninety dollars per month.

The paper of 1888 announced, "Teachers and friends of education are requested to meet at the public school building in Charleston on August 18, to organize a teachers association and arrange for holding an institute."

Some of the students of the year 1889 were: C. W. Rytter, Jabe Clarkson, Alphus Bogard, Bert Drane, Ed Quinn, Emma

Roberts, Susie Hay, Ethel Hursem, Lottie Lynn, Levy Dordrey, Ella Looney, Mrytie White, Julia Sharp, Oma Gwaltney, Clyde Hart, Lillian Fassett, Stradia Pearman, Annie Rytter, Lillie Bomer, Claud Smith, Marietta Fowlkes, Willie Ogilvie, Thomas White, Ed Parks, William Cagle, Lillie Martin, Cordia Bailey, Anna Dunn, Harry Martin, Homer Lynn, Bill Parks, and Vol O'Bryan. Prof. Rowel was principal and Miss Ida Bridwell one of the teachers.

Some years later the graduating classes of 1891 and 1901 were entertained by Effie Smith at her father's home on Vine Street. Members of the class of 1891 were Addie Barnhill (Mrs. Freer), Cora Russell (Mrs. Sutherland), Olie Hatton, Fannie Heggie (Mrs. Capshaw) and Effie Smith. The class of 1901 was composed of Wella Clarkson, Maude Story, Bertha Shell, Julia Grigsby, Ruby Crenshaw, Mabel Drane, Lillian Connelly, Terresia Fasset, Eula Heggie, Lora Martin, Joseph C. Crenshaw, Herbert Rowe, and Carl Rowe.

Although a few high school subjects had been taught previously, no regular high school course was established in Charleston until 1892, when J. H. Hatton had charge of the schools.<sup>31</sup> The closing exercises in June were reported in the paper, "The closing exercises of the Charleston High School took place at the College yesterday afternoon and last night which was a grand affair. Miss Cora Lamb, daughter of William Lamb, was awarded first prize as the best and most attentive student. Prof. and Mrs. Watts deserve much credit in the way the school was successfully conducted."<sup>32</sup>

In 1893 two years of high school work was offered and classes in Latin, Botony and Zoology were added so that graduates could enter the Missouri State University without an examination. It was called the Charleston High School and Business College and that year a class of seven completed the course and had formal graduation exercises. They were: Mollie Heggie, Alice DeLine, Irene O'Bryan, Lillie Raith, Iva Martin, Byron Bethune, and Ike Smith.

That same year the citizens of Mississippi County had hopes for a short time of getting a college located in Charleston. The Courier of September 22, 1893, reported, "A very enthusiastic crowd of citizens of Mississippi County met at the office of the Probate Clerk, yesterday morning to take the preliminary steps to secure for Charleston the location of the Bellevue Collegiate Institute, (under control of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) of the St. Louis Conference, which is now located at Caledonia, Washington County. A committee composed of seventeen leading citizens was appointed to canvass the county, to see how much money could be raised to secure the location of the college. Other towns interested in securing the college are Fredericktown, DeSota and Ironton." The college remained at Caledonia.

J. H. Hatton was succeeded in 1894 by A. R. Boone, who remained as superintendent until 1901.<sup>33</sup>

In 1895 a two story addition was added to the school building. In 1896 there were two public school buildings, one for white and one for colored pupils. Prof. Boone's assistants were Miss Minnie Sperling, Miss Neola Hatton and Miss Rose Marshall. The primary department was under the direction of Misses Emma Danforth and Mamie Roberts. Other teachers were J. M. Crow, H. T. Murphy, J. M. Stafford, W. A. Neinstadt, J. J. Boone, Miss Cora Lamb and Miss Betty Ogilvie. Graduates of 1895 were Irene O'Bryan, Pearl Clarkson, Zena Beagle, May Hatton, Levia Holloway, Katie Grigsby, and Johnnie Heggie.

A class of the late 1800's back for a reunion some years later included Mrs. Julia Rowe, Mrs. Ada Hequembourg, Mrs. Frank Russell, Miss Mattie O'Bryan, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. E. P. Deal, Mrs. Sue Kendall, Mrs. J. J. Russell, Mrs. Sally Hart, Mrs. Katie Greer, Mrs. M. A. Drane, Mrs. W. T. Marshall, and Mrs. I. A. Crenshaw.

The schools were becoming crowded as testified to by Prof. A. R. Boone in a letter to the Courier in 1895, "The enrollment at the public school Tuesday was 220. There were 43 pupils who had never attended this school before. Both rooms in the primary department are crowded. Ten or twelve children who are under legal school age were sent home because of lack of room to accomodate them. Some parents, whose children will be the required age—six years, by Christmas, have asked to be allowed to enter them at the first of the term. While we regret to refuse this request, yet we are forced to do so. The enrollment for the first and second days, 209 and 220 respectively, is the largest for several years. The enrollment will reach about 250 by the middle of this month. This number will fill nearly every room to its fullest capacity. Hence I am requested by the Board of Directors to state that those patrons of other districts who have been sending to this school, will make special arrangements with the Board before entering their children this year."

The Courier of August 3, 1897, announced, "Our public school, Prof. Graham's Classical Institute and the Convent School opened this morning. Each will hold a nine months session."

At the Classical Institute—Greek, Latin, German, French, and Spanish were taught in addition to the usual English classes. Other courses offered were arithmetic, algebra, plane and solid geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, surveying, navigation, botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, geology, astronomy, and history. The tuition was fifteen dollars per semester.

Public school graduates of 1897 were: Elizabeth Burns, Willie Ogilvie, Mamie Crenshaw and Ella Porter.



In 1898 J. J. Russell, E. W. Ogilvie, Scott Alexander, J. D. Murphy, and J. B. Simpson, trustees of the Charleston Baptist College, acquired the entire block which was later occupied by the Eugene Field School for the sum of \$1,250. A four room brick structure was erected and the Charleston Baptist College became a reality.

In 1901 C. L. Hartt opened a Business College and Shorthand Institute in rooms at the old public school building and A. D. Simpson succeeded A. R. Boone as superintendent of the public schools.

The old school building on Green Street was no longer adequate and around 1903 the upper grades were moved to the two-story, four-room building known as the Charleston Baptist College which had been purchased from the trustees of the College in 1901 for \$3,600 as shown in plat book 43, page 119.

The old school building on Green Street was torn down in 1905 and a jar taken from the corner stone was found to contain silver coins in the amount of \$1.85 and a key check stamped with the name of J. L. Ogilvie.<sup>34</sup>

Graduates in 1903 were: Lila Simpson, Julia Clarkson, Jessie Smith, Nela Jackson, Olen Smith, Hershel Roberts, and Ethel Steele, who went back and graduated in 1906 as a four year graduate.

In June of 1903 the public school board adopted the plans of architect Schrage of Kansas City, Missouri, for a new school building. J. M. Anderson, a contractor of Emporia, Kansas, built it at a cost of \$25,000 and it was completed in 1904. The new twelve room building was a real improvement over the two buildings being used and that same year it was approved as a "First Class High School" by the State Department of Education.

The school bell which was first installed in the old school on Green Street was moved in 1905 to the Eugene Field School on Seventh Street. It was of bronze and a bronze alloy. Forty years later the belfry became unsteady and the bell was taken down and hauled over town for people to hear the last ringing. In 1943, during World War II, it was auctioned off during a war bond drive and was purchased by C. R. Moreton for \$21,000. It was then mounted on a scaffold on the Wyatt school grounds. When the school property was disposed of many years later Allen Moreton became the owner of the bell.

Opening day of the new School, much later to be named the Eugene Field School, has been described by Robert H. Hill, who later became a professor at Southeast Missouri University at Cape Girardeau, "The call of the bell wasn't really necessary when every youngster was ready and many of them on the grounds when it rang, but no pupils were allowed in the building. Just after the first bell, Mr. Simpson, the superintendent of schools, leaned out the bay window of the office on the second

floor and raised the new bright flag with its forty-five stars. The territories of Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma were not admitted to the Union until eight years later."

"The sun was shining, though it was chilly that fall morning, and the many maple trees lining the sandy streets of the town were in full color and the second grade made wreaths of colored leaves to decorate the room. At five minutes until nine the warning bell, rang, 'THE DRINK BELL' it was called, and after dozens had rushed to the pump, the lines were formed. Mr. Simpson leaned out the window in his office and directed them as to where each line would form."

"Miss Ruby Crenshaw's fifth grade marched in along with Miss Susie Hay's sixth grade and Miss Mabel Roberts' fourth grade entered with Miss Lizzie Burns' first grade. The seventh and eighth grades were upstairs with the high school students. These students entered with the girls from the north door and the boys from the south. The groups were separated and no boy had any business on the north side of the building. Miss Alice Goodin's second grade and Miss Allie Chambers' third grade entered the east door in lines."

There were no graduates in 1904 because the course of study was changed to include another year for a High School diploma. The fall term of 1904 opened with a full four year course, with sixty-four pupils enrolled. In the spring of 1905 a class of nine graduated with the first four year diplomas.

In 1905 Robert Jones was the contractor for a school house for the colored people in the southern part of town. It was a replica of the Green Street school and built with part of the bricks from that building which had recently been wrecked. It was completed in June at a cost of \$2,900.

The Charleston school system was first approved by the University of Missouri in 1906 and at the school election in 1907 the voters elected to organize under the village school law by electing six members to the board of education. This replaced the village school district of three board members. Those elected were: Dr. A. W. Chapman and O. W. Joslyn, one year; J. B. Penny and W. A. Ogilvie, two years; Scott Alexander and W. C. Russell, three years.<sup>35</sup>

Boys basketball in the High School was started in 1907.<sup>36</sup>

In 1908 Mrs. Clara Graham was succeeded by Miss Effie Russell and a new teacher, Miss Mary V. Clarke, was employed for the Latin and German classes. James Sutton was appointed principal.

In the year 1909 the faculty of the High School was composed of James Sutton, science and mathematics; Mary V. Clarke, Latin and German; Effie Russell, English and History. A girls High School Glee Club was organized and named "Junior Quartette". Teaching in the grade school were: Mabel Roberts, Rowena Hay, Bertha Roberts, Flossie Stotts, Susan Hay, Myrtle

Howlett, Florence Lane, Florence Fowlkes, Lizzie Burns, and Birdie Rivers, all graduates of the Charleston High School.

In 1911 M. C. Brown and James Ramsey of Charleston were awarded the contract for the erection of the "West End" School. The contract was for \$16,866 and the building was to be completed by April of 1911. It was much later named the Mark Twain School and the south entrance faced Lafayette Street. The high school classes were moved to the building and the "East End" School building became the grade school.

The enrollment was steadily increasing and rose to 114 in 1911. In the spring of 1912 Simpson was succeeded by George W. Kirk. Sutton resigned and E. O. Wiley replaced him. Miss Elizabeth Brasfield succeeded Miss Russell in the teaching of History and English. One new course was added to the curriculum—physical geography—taught by Wiley. That year the first student annual, the "Vox Studentis", was published.

In the fall of 1913 two new departments of work were added to the high school course—Teacher Training and Commercial work. Trigonometry and Solid Geometry were added during 1914-15. For the first time the high school was placed on the North Central Association List of Approved High Schools. Of the then four hundred high schools in Missouri only fifty met the requirements of the Association.<sup>37</sup> Only five in Southeast Missouri maintained standards high enough to entitle them to membership in the Association. These schools were: Fredericktown, Poplar Bluff, Kennett, West Plains, and Charleston.

Due to the crowded conditions the high school basketball games were played in the YMCA from 1914 until it closed in 1920. After that various buildings were rented until the new high school was built in 1926.

Kirk in his report of 1917 noted, "Four years ago there were seventeen teachers on the corps. This year there are twenty five teachers. Four years ago we had one vacant class room at the Lincoln school, four at Eugene Field school and three at the high school building. This year every room in the three buildings is in regular use and some of the rooms are going to be very crowded. A new course for the girls is to be added to the curriculum this year—Sewing—taught by Miss Machen." In 1919 H. L. Jones succeeded George W. Kirk as superintendent.

In 1925 the board of education discussed submitting a bond issue for the erection of a new high school building on South Main Street. The school district had been given a ten-acre site for the proposed high school building several years earlier by the Smith Realty Co. of Tennessee with the provision that the site would revert to the original owner if a bond issue for the erection of a building was not voted within five years from the date of the deed and the time limit was almost up. The bond issue was voted on April 7, 1925, and carried in a four to one vote for a new





EUGENE FIELD SCHOOL, demolished in 1971, was constructed in 1904.



The Charleston High School on Lafayette Street built in 1911 was later used as an elementary school and named the Mark Twain School. The building is now used for storage.



\$100,000 high school building.

The Enterprise-Courier stated, "The new building, which is to occupy a ten-acre tract on South Main, will be the finest of the city's public buildings and probably the most modern high school structure in Southeast Missouri. With the large campus, it will make an imposing appearance, and its value as a school plant will be materially augmented by the fine athletic field willed to the district by the late Dr. H. L. Reid and to be named in his honor, which will adjoin the ten-acre campus. Its completion will give Charleston four public school buildings with complete grammar schools in both east and west ends, the high school in the south and equi-distance from both sections an up-to-date colored school adjacent to the Negro section".<sup>38</sup>

Architects were H. H. Hohenschild Co. of St. Louis.<sup>39</sup> George H. Gassman was awarded the contract and the building was accepted by the board of education in July of 1926 with value placed at \$125,000.<sup>40</sup> The 1925-26 school year was the last in which high school classes were held in the Mark Twain school.

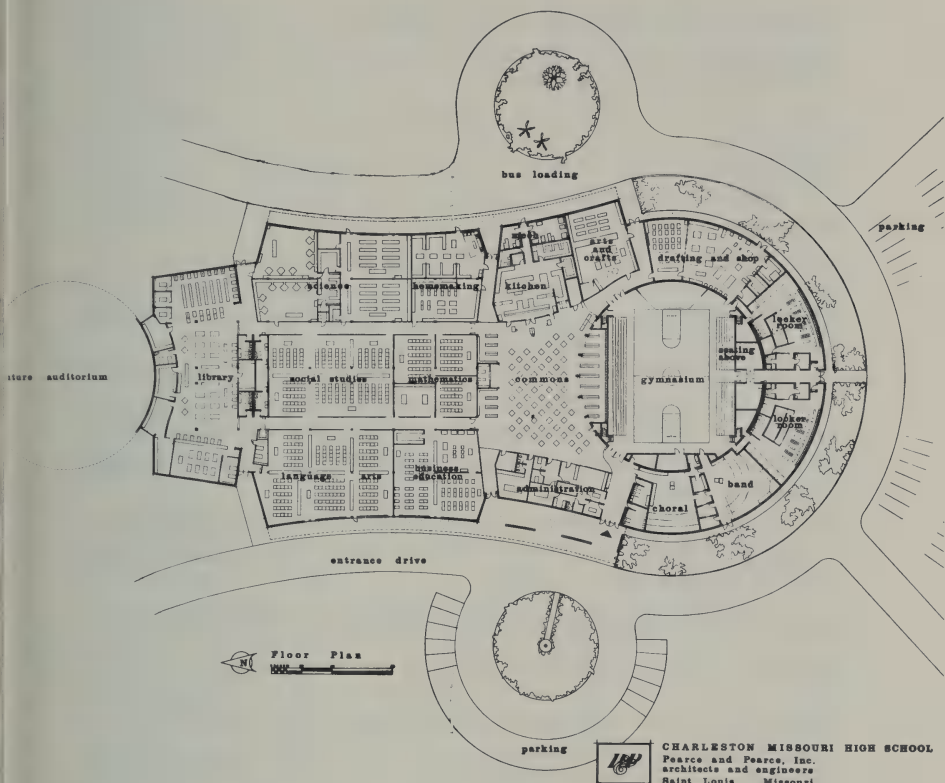
The paper of October 17, 1929, announced, "All city schools in Charleston will enjoy a half holiday circus day, next Tuesday, October 22, to enable school children to attend Robbins Bros. big 4-Ring Circus, which will exhibit for two performances only in this city that day. Through arrangement between the management of Robbins Bros. and A. D. Simpson, superintendent of schools, the circus parade which will be seen upon the downtown streets of Charleston, will be delayed until 12:15 p.m."

The first High School band was organized in 1931 with a membership of eighteen.<sup>41</sup> In August the band, consisting of twenty-five members, under the directorship of R. "Peg" Meyer, presented a concert at the High School.<sup>42</sup>

In 1931 the old Lincoln school partly burned. It was an old building of four rooms housing three hundred pupils and was in an unsafe condition so it was decided that it would be too costly to repair. A \$10,000 bond issue was voted and in 1932 a new colored school was built.<sup>43</sup> The new building 152 x 118 feet of brick veneer and containing ten class rooms was built by George Gassman at a total cost of \$25,000.

The school hot lunch program in Charleston for underprivileged children began September 16, 1941, with over five thousand quarts of fruits and vegetables that had been canned in the W. P. A. kitchen at the Mark Twain school.

The Industrial and Agricultural Survey of Charleston in 1943 gave an evaluation of the school system at that time, "The school system of Charleston is organized on the 8-4 plan, eight elementary grades are taught in the elementary schools and the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades are taught in the Senior High School. Public schools of the city are housed in four modern buildings. The High School building and the Vocational Agriculture and Band Room are located on South Main Street.



Floor plan of the Charleston High School completed in 1967 which has a student capacity of one thousand.

The two elementary schools provide ample facilities for more than 800 city pupils, and for students from rural districts who may wish to attend school in Charleston. For the latter, the district maintains an adequate bus service. The Lincoln School houses both the Negro High School and Negro Elementary School. The Rosenwald Fund and the General Education Board made generous contributions toward its building and equipment."

"In addition to the regular curriculum, including courses in English, Mathematics, Sciences, History, Music and Languages, the school offers strong departments in Home Economics, Vocational Agriculture, Shop Work and Commercial Courses. There are also O S Y courses running most of the time for defense workers."

"In 1942 the faculty comprises 37 teachers in all departments. Both the Charleston and Lincoln High Schools are fully approved schools of the first class."

"Night football was instituted several years ago. The field is adequately floodlighted, and is available for open air events sponsored by the community during summer months. The athletic program of the school system embraces football, basketball, track, handball and other sports. Modern playground equipment is maintained at the elementary schools. A physical education program meets all state requirements."

Total enrollment in the Charleston public schools in 1943 was 1,023. The Driver Training Course at the High School was started in 1945 with Keith Doan as instructor.

John Harris Marshall became superintendent after A. D. Simpson retired on July 1, 1947, and served for eighteen years. He was followed by W. R. Pierce, Jr.<sup>44</sup>

The R-I building program continued with the addition of the A. D. Simpson building for a Junior High, an additional elementary school on the grounds of the Eugene Field School building and a Kindergarten building on the grounds of the High School building.

Soon afterward the complete integration of the system was started but because of crowding could not be completed until more buildings were erected.

A school bond issue for a new high school building was voted on March 2, 1965, and passed four to one. It called for the erection of a \$1,400,000 building. At its completion the Junior High was moved to the old High School building on South Main Street and the A. D. Simpson building was used for offices. A building for the Superintendent and his secretary has since been built on the old High School grounds and the Eugene Field building was razed in 1970. The Lincoln school has also been torn down to make way for a Community Center to be built with a \$250,000 grant from HUD.

On August 20, 1967, the new Charleston High School building was dedicated. Warren E. Hearnes, then governor of Missouri, was guest speaker and gave a brief history of the schools in Charleston and recognized the progress made.

Pearce and Pearce, Inc. of St. Louis were the architects for the building which cost \$1,491,844 and which has a student capacity of one thousand. It was designed to meet the requirements of the "Charleston Plan" which consists of new concepts such as flexibility, team teaching, independent study, resource centers, etc., which only a few schools in Missouri have attempted.

The curriculum included language arts, foreign language, social studies, mathematics, science, fine arts, practical arts, health and physical education, and driver education. Also available to any student is a choice of all units offered at the Area Vocational School at Sikeston, Missouri. A fleet of nineteen school busses transport students to the schools of the R-1 District.

The high school faculty of 1967-68 consisted of forty-four teachers. Thomas U. Wells, Superintendent; Louis Chaney, Assistant Superintendent and Principal; and Warren H. Moss, Assistant Principal. The Board of Education consisted of: James C. Moreton, President; Robert C. Jackson, Vice-President; Rogert G. Delaney, W. Clifton Banta, Dennis Quertermous and Mrs. Helen Currin.

#### *St. Henry's*

The Convent School has been holding classes since 1888. In that year Reverend Francis Brandt engaged Miss Anna Schweper, of Cape Girardeau and a graduate of the Sisters of that city, to teach the first classes of St. Henry's School in a room of the Parish Rectory. Records show an attendance of thirty-five pupils in September of 1888. In December of that year Rev. Muehlsiepen, Director of the Ursuline Sisters at St. Louis, visited Rev. Brandt and promised to have sisters sent the following year. The purchase of school property and the building of a little brick building opposite the Rectory was accomplished.<sup>45</sup>

In September of 1889, three Sisters of the Ursuline community took charge of the school. Opening day showed an attendance of sixty pupils.<sup>46</sup>

In 1892 William Bruenderman was awarded the contract for putting up the Charleston Convent School building to be completed by August 15, for \$4,895. Additional costs raised the total to around \$7,000.

The Enterprise announced, "Convent School will open Monday, September 5, 1892, and will furnish a thorough education from the primary to the academic. The Academic Course, which is designed for young ladies only, will be a new feature the coming year."

In 1893 a kindergarten was added and outside of larger cities was one of the few in the state of Missouri at that time. The Fifth Annual Commencement Program June 20, 1893, lists 132 pupils, the majority of whom were of non-catholic parents.

In 1894 Rev. Henry Hussman assumed charge in place of Rev. Brandt. The convent employed four teachers and enrolled 120 pupils. The tuition was \$1.00 per month for the regular course and \$2.50 per month for the collegiate course.

In 1909 Rev. Henry Petri was appointed to replace Rev. Hussman. During the next twenty one years of Rev. Petri's pastorate, St. Henry's school continued under improved conditions. In 1920 the two year high school course was accredited to the Missouri University. From September 1922-26 the classes were in charge of Miss Helen Test, later to become Sister Mary Stella, Leta Newcum, and Miss Dora Beauegard. In September of 1926 the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood from O'Fallon, Missouri, took charge of the school. The enrollment of that year showed an attendance of 167 pupils.<sup>47</sup>

Graduates from the two year high school course in 1928



were: Angela Halter, Cecelia Halter, Lucile LeBeaume, Hunter Raffety, Beatrice Renaud, Bernardine Rolwing, and Genevieve Stewart.

Upon the death of Father Petri in May 1930, Rev. John R. Wieberg was appointed. Under his guidance the school grew into a complete twelve grade school and in May of 1937 the first Senior Class of six boys and three girls was graduated from St. Henry's High School.

By 1954 there were 247 students and for several years under the guidance of Rev. Charles P. Schmitt the Parish worked for a new building. On January 18, 1953, the ground breaking ceremony took place and on April 4, 1954, the new \$180,000 grade school building and auditorium on Court Street was formally dedicated. Architects were A. F. and Arthur Stauder of St. Louis. The enrollment in the grades was 183 children. At that time there were sixty-one students in the High School.

### *EAST PRAIRIE*

The first school in the East Prairie area was at Millar. Miss Josie Gray, a teacher, who submitted articles to the Charleston Enterprise under the name of "Myrtie" stated in 1880, "We have singing school, grammar school and will open public school on the 19th. The public schoolhouse is being repaired under the supervision of Maj. Guthrie. The directors are making an effort to improve the general condition of their school; besides having the house repaired, they have instructed the teacher to furnish it with such maps and charts as he thinks will facilitate study and charge the expense to the district."

The June 10, 1887, paper noted that Miss Maggie Doyle was teaching school in East Prairie, but probably both of these references were to the Millar School because there was no school building in East Prairie until 1888 when a one-room school was erected by J. W. Nelson at the instigation of a local committee. Village youngsters had been obliged to walk to Millar, a distance of three miles. The school was located on the present site of the new Christian Church. S. C. White of Sikeston was hired as the first instructor at a salary of \$35 a month. Members of the first school board were: S. P. Martin, I. R. A. Doyle, Rev. Bradley, and Dr. A. W. Chapman.<sup>48</sup>

Another reference to the school states that Miss Nannie Warford taught in 1891, followed by S. C. White.

In 1900 the need of a larger school was so great that a new brick building was erected in the west end of East Prairie. With its completion the little frame school of 1888 was of no further use and was purchased for a City Hall and used as such until 1923.

School board members of 1902 were: A. J. Ryker, C. D. Mitchell, C. C. Conyers, R. A. Doyle, and J. J. Jones.

Graduates of 1904 were: Audrey Moxley, Cleveland Chap-

# The 1905 East Prairie School Faculty

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Styles in clothing and hairdress were a mite different back there 30 or 32 years ago. In the picture are Mrs. McAdoo, Mrs. W. H. Grissom, Mrs. David Bright, Mattie Moxley, Wootson Davis, Cora Imhoff, Minnie Faust, and Prof. Hale, at present a prominent attorney of St. Louis. He served a term as Representative from New Madrid county while living at Morehouse.

man, Mayme Stodgill, and Clara Croft.

The school faculty of 1905 included: Mrs. McAdoo, Mrs. W. H. Grissom, Mrs. David Bright, Mattie Moxley, Wootson Davis, Cora Imhoff, Minnie Faust, and a Prof. Hale, who later became a prominent attorney of St. Louis.

The East Prairie School system in 1910 consisted of two high school and six grade teachers, and one music teacher. C. S. Hale was superintendent and the board of education was composed of: C. C. Conyers, President; A. J. Ryker, J. C. Russell, and B. B. Guthrie.<sup>49</sup>

The first high school classes were offered in 1906 but the first approved four year high school in East Prairie was in the year 1912 with one graduate, Muriel McAdoo. The total enrollment for the year was 341.

As the increase in population continued, an addition was built onto the new school building and it was used until 1925,

when a modern high school was completed in the East Addition. The Gerhardt Construction Co. of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was awarded the contract in 1923 for the \$48,000 building.<sup>50</sup> Seven months later it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and in the fall of 1927 was ready for use. It housed the Junior High and High School grades and was named Martin School. Elementary grades were held in the old building.<sup>51</sup>

The first student annual, "The Echo", was published in 1915 and a teachers association organized in 1920.

The grade school, an old two-story gray brick structure was condemned by the State Board of Education in 1935. It was torn down and a new building built to house the first six grades after September 1, 1937. It was named after R. A. Doyle, a member of the first board of education and President of the Board in 1937.<sup>52</sup>

That year the East Prairie High School graduated forty-eight students which was the largest to date and the largest graduating class in the county. Graduates were: Jewell Adams, Faye Adkison, Kay Adkison, Armonus Allen, George Alsup, Thelma Ashlock, Frankie Bard, Eugenie Barker, Goldie Benson, Mary Jo Bom, Mary Florence Brigman, Wesley Chunn, D. W. Cockenour, Willard Cole, Maxine Davis, La Rue DeField, Frances DesGranges, Billie Downs, Edward Falkoff, Maurine Finley, Fred Gilmore, Weber Gilmore, Clara Gordon, Evelyn Green, Floyd Hockersmith, Everett Hogue, Hazel Hunt, Robert Hunter, Ruth Hunter, June LaPlant, Henry Littlefield, Eldorse McMikle, Laurana Mainord, Richard Mitchell, Mildred Morris, Jay Nichols, Opal Oliver, Merton Pritchett, Helena Rodgers, Lucelia Russell, Fred Rynearson, Durward Sanders, David Smith, Ruby Spence, Elizabeth Tanner, Minnie Ellen Watson, Barbara Webb, and Charline Zachary.

C. E. Pepmiller resigned as superintendent in 1964 and was followed by Ray Melton who served until 1973.

From one high school and one grade school building in 1930 and a total school population of about three hundred students, East Prairie's schools have expanded to four campuses with about fifteen buildings having a total value of over five million dollars and a student population of approximately two thousand students. The schools are fully integrated and have a fully accredited AAA rating.

## Chapter IX

### CHURCHES

Many diverse religions took hold in Missouri Territory in the early 1800's. The French were still the stronghold of the Roman Catholic church. During the frontier period the Jesuits were re-established in Missouri after an absence of nearly half a century. The Baptists and Methodists, the earliest arrivals among the Protestant groups, gained probably the strongest hold in frontier Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

A missionary movement got underway in the east about 1815, and ministers of all denominations were sent to the "heathen west". Not only Baptists and Methodists, but Presbyterians, Episcopalians and soon the "Campbellites" came to Missouri. The traveling preacher who represented most of these groups had meetings in the winter time in the cabin of some of the "congregation". This was not very satisfactory for the cabins were often too small. In the summer time the meetings were in the open air.<sup>2</sup>

The itinerant ministers that characterized the frontier period were usually self-sacrificing, honest and spiritually-minded. The settlers usually welcomed the visits of the preachers and tavern keepers often kept them without charge and even thieves showed respect for the itinerant minister.<sup>3</sup>

The almanac of 1859 described the religious groups in Mississippi County at that time, "The Methodist Church has two preachers in the county, the Rev. T. W. Mitchell at Charleston, and Rev. McKnight, on the Wolf Island circuit. They have, in addition to their house in Charleston, a house upon the Lake, also places of worship at Concord, Norfolk, Rush's Ridge, Lucas' Bend, Wolf Island, Kay's Chapel and Long Prairie. The church numbers about five hundred members in the county. The Baptists have a church at Charleston under charge of the Rev. K. Young. They have flourishing societies at Wolf Island, St. James and Rush's Ridge, and number about four hundred. The Reformers or Campbellites have an organization with some forty members scattered through the county. The Presbyterians have a church near Judge Allen's in the Wolf Island settlement, and number through the county some fifty members. The Catholics have a very neat house of worship in the upper part of the county and number about one hundred members."

L. U. Reavis in his survey of Mississippi County around 1878 wrote, "Preaching was had and churches were organized in a very early day. The Baptists were probably the first to come,



and were the most numerous for many years, but the Methodists, with that vigor and zeal that always characterized them in the early settlement of the West came into the various neighborhoods, and from small beginnings, grew up to be the strongest religious body in the county."

Reavis does not mention Catholics who were the first to build a church in what is now Mississippi County and the records seem to show that the Methodists were organized before the Baptists.

### *Catholic Churches*

The first settlers of Texas Bend near the northern boundary of Mississippi County were German Catholics from the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Vincentian Fathers from Perryville collaborated with the resident pastor of the church at New Hamburg, Missouri, taking charge of the Catholics in the whole of the present Mississippi County. As far back as 1800 they built their first church at Texas Bend, about six miles north of Charleston, a rude log structure, but so built that the logs were dove-tailed and could well withstand the ravages of flood, drought and wind. It was thought to be the first Catholic church between Ste. Genevieve, Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee. For many years this log church stood in a field until another was built on a more central location at the site of the present Texas Bend Cemetery. Both structures have disappeared and toward the latter quarter of the 19th century the Pastorate was moved to Charleston.<sup>4</sup>

In 1873 the first Catholic Church in Charleston was built on land donated by Henry J. Deal and Mrs. J. W. Rolwing. All records of marriage, baptism, First Holy Communion, etc. begin with 1874.

Services in Texas Bend were discontinued in 1879, and the Catholics in the community were obliged to attend services in Charleston.<sup>5</sup>

In 1888 Father Frances Brand was appointed pastor of Charleston. The young priest not only worked in Charleston, he also built a parochial residence at New Madrid. At one time his territory stretched 140 miles along the Mississippi River. He also conducted a series of lectures for persons outside the Catholic faith and paid regular visits and said Mass in private homes in Texas Bend, East Prairie, Sikeston, Bird's Point and Belmont. He was recalled to St. Louis after seven years of arduous labor.<sup>6</sup>

Father Henry Hussman, a native of Germany, succeeded Father Brand in 1895. The present Romanesque church was built in 1905 under his supervision. Plans for the church were furnished by architects Wessbecher and Hillebrand of St. Louis and it was erected under the supervision of R. H. Jones and M. C. Brown at a cost of \$18,500. It was dedicated on June 4, 1907, and was greatly improved in 1910 by the purchase of stained glass windows and frescoing during the pastorate of Rev. H. C.



**FIRST CHURCH IN CHARLESTON**  
**Built by Father Willenbrink—1873**

Petri. In the summer of 1924 three bells were purchased for the church. They were cast by the Struckstede and Brothers of St. Louis. The bells continue to summon the community to pray and work.<sup>7</sup>

Father Henry C. Petri succeeded Father Hussman as pastor in 1909. During the first months he worked in Arcadia and around Charleston. Later, the Archbishop requested him to come to St. Louis. He was loved by all who knew him and in 1925, a celebration was held in his honor on the occasion of his silver jubilee. At this time he said that he wished to be buried in Charleston where he had labored so long for Christ. Father Petri died on May 24, 1930, and was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery at Charleston.<sup>8</sup>

In June of 1930 Father John Robert Wieberg came to Charleston from Advance, Missouri. In addition to his other duties he organized the Mens', Ladies', Young Mens', Young Ladies' Teresian and Guardian Angel Sodalities, the Credit Union, and the Benevolence Society.<sup>9</sup>

In 1936 a new pipe organ built by Wicks Organ Co. of Highland, Illinois, was installed in the church through the efforts of the Rolwing brothers.<sup>10</sup>

Father Charles P. Schmitt succeeded Father Wieberg and arrived in Charleston January 14, 1949. The church was in need of extensive repair. Engineers found that dry rot had damaged the wooden framing of the steeple, rendering it unsafe. It was replaced with a new square steeple. A complete renovation of the interior was begun in 1955. A new marble altar was built and new stations of the cross painted by Belgium artist Dom Gregory DeWitt. The renovation was completed in 1956 and consecrated on April 25 of that year.<sup>11</sup>

In September of 1963 Shirley Staples was the successful bidder on the contract for a new rectory and convent building at Saint Henry's Church, with a reported cost in excess of \$100,000.<sup>12</sup> At the completion of the buildings they were blessed by Bishop Strecker on May 10, 1964.<sup>13</sup>

St. Henry's Parish has been served by the following: 1873-77—Rev. Henry Willenbrink; 1877-79—Rev. Francis Bettels; 1879-80—Rev. J. A. Connolly; 1880-83—Rev. F. Kleinschnittger (Klein); 1883-84—Rev. F. Pommer; 1884-85—Rev. J. L. Gadell; 1885-86—Rev. H. H. O'Reilly; 1886-87—Rev. Henry Thobe; 1887-88—Rev. Francis Bettels; 1888-95—Rev. Francis Brand; 1895-1909—Rev. Henry Hussman; 1909-30—Rev. Henry C. Petri; 1930-49—Rev. John R. Wieberg; 1949-present—Msgr. Charles P. Schmitt.<sup>14</sup>

St. Martin's Catholic Church at East Prairie was dedicated July 14, 1896. The Rev. Father Eschman of Cairo, Illinois, delivered the dedication address.

On June 28, 1950, Father Raymond W. Rau was appointed as the Administrator of the new parish of St. Mary Goretti in East Prairie. Holy Mass was celebrated in the town until a church was erected. The present church was completed and dedicated by Archbishop Ritter on June 28, 1953.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Methodist Churches*

In March of 1810 Rev. Jessie Walker came from the state of Tennessee and crossed the big swamp to the New Madrid circuit. At the end of the year he reported thirty members on the new circuit. A few years later Rev. Jacob Lanius, Presiding Elder of the Cape Girardeau District, made the following entry in his diary, "Held the fourth quarterly conference for the New Madrid Circuit in Mathews' Prairie, Scott County."<sup>16</sup>

A church was organized in Mathews' Prairie in what is now Mississippi County about 1830. They held their meetings at the



house of Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, a widow, living in Mathews' Prairie. Her husband had been a zealous member and his house was the welcome home of many a wandering pioneer preacher. Among the early preachers were Crane, Haw, and McElmurry. Among the charter members of this church were: Absalom McElmurry and his wife, Elizabeth Smith, Elijah Bruce, Samuel Duncan and family, William Bush, Joseph Moore and wife, James Moore and wife, Richard and Mary Crenshaw, Uriel Haw and wife, Charles Moore and wife, and Isaac Vernon and wife.<sup>17</sup>

Soon after a house of worship, a small log structure, was erected on the land of Elizabeth Smith, about three quarters of a mile northwest of Charleston. Rev. Uriel Haw was the Presiding Elder and John K. Lacey was the preacher in charge of the New Madrid Circuit. Rev. Haw's grandson, Marvin T. Haw, was a minister of the Methodist Church and was stationed at various places in Southeast Missouri.<sup>18</sup>

In 1838 this house of worship on the land of Elizabeth Smith burned. There was a union church organized by the Methodists and Baptists but this arrangement did not work so in 1841 a frame church, thirty by forty feet and with a large gallery was erected in Charleston at the northeast corner of Block No. 7. On May 12, 1841, Joseph Moore and Elizabeth Moore, his wife, had deeded block no. 7 of the original town to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and to the following men, who were named trustees for the property: Jacob Swank, R. Sherman, John Sherman, James L. Moore, Charles W. Moore, Absalom McElmurry, and Noah Handy.<sup>19</sup>

In the early days of the history of this church, it was on the New Madrid Circuit, and continued to be on that circuit until September 24, 1845, when Bishop Soule, presiding over the Methodist Conference, appointed L. P. Rowland to the Charleston Circuit. Thereafter it was known as the Charleston Circuit until the fall of 1872, when it became a Station and has so remained.<sup>20</sup>

During the Civil War a great many churches were abandoned or destroyed. The Charleston Methodist Church continued services uninterrupted except for a brief time when the church building was used as a hospital for southern soldiers.

The Elizabeth Smith who gave land for the first church, created a trust fund for the church by her will dated March 18, 1858, in which she bequeathed the residue of her estate to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and appointed the following stewards of said church as trustees of said fund: Gabriel Fowlkes, John Gaty, James L. Moore, Noah Handy, J. Hainly, Silas Swank, and William B. Bush, and their successors in office forever. When the estate was finally settled, the money was turned over to the church trustees on June 8, 1864.<sup>21</sup>

The first church in Charleston was used by the congregation



until 1856, when it was torn down and a brick structure, forty by sixty with a large balcony was erected on the same site. This brick church with parsonage at the rear burned in 1870, but was immediately rebuilt and dedicated in 1877 by Bishop Marvin. It was sold in 1905 to the Masonic Fraternity and is still in use by them today.<sup>22</sup>

A boys' class of 1871 taught by Thomas Beckwith included the following: Frank Shelby, Joe Walgamott, Will Lee, Shirley Montgomery, Dave Daugherty, Jim Hughes, John L. Simpson, and Jack L. Ogilvie.

In 1881 the building committee of the Methodist Church awarded the contract for building a parsonage to Jacob Klopp, of Fredericktown, at a cost of \$1,400. It was a gothic house, two-story in height, containing eight rooms. It was south of the church and has since been torn down.

The Enterprise of September 18, 1885, printed the following information:

M. E. Church, South, of Charleston  
Collections \$1,298.50 from church members  
315.75 from Smith fund  
213 members, 17 new added during year  
9 adults and 4 infants baptised

Rev. J. K. Matthew in 1886 was preaching for the Charleston Circuit in the following locations: Concord Church, Thrower's Chapel, Wilkerson school house, Rush's Ridge and Berry's school house.

In 1887 the circuits within the Charleston District were: Bertrand, East Prairie, Thrower's Chapel, W. H. Blalock, pastor. Belmont, including Haw's chapel, Rush's Ridge, Concord and Locust Grove school house, supplied by R. G. Parks.

Preachers' salaries were very small in those early days. They usually ranged from \$150 to \$200 per year. The Methodist board of stewards met at the beginning of the conference year and made the allowance for the preacher. If a good sister during the year made the preacher a pair of homemade jean pants or a brown domestic shirt he had to report it to his quarterly conference at which time it was valued and charged to his salary. If he received more than his salary he had to pay it to a fund to be apportioned among those who did not receive their full allotment.

After having used the Charleston church building on Center Street for nearly thirty-five years the congregation sold it and purchased a lot on South Main Street and built the church building now in use. The cornerstone was laid December 12, 1905. The contract for the building was awarded to Taylor and Son of Jackson, Missouri. The structure, including the pipe organ was to cost about \$21,000. The first service in the new church was on the first Sunday in September, 1906, and Dr. W. B. Palmore dedicated it on September 30, 1906. The first wed-

ding in the new church was that of Miss Julia Ann Grigsby and Dr. A. H. Marshall with Rev. J. M. Bradley officiating.

In 1936 the government bought the north sixty-five feet of the lot for a new post office for Charleston.

The parsonage near the Masonic Hall continued to be used as such for many years. In 1918 the Church bought the property at the corner of Cypress and Matthews Streets, and this was first used as a parsonage by Rev. L. R. Jenkins. In 1941 this house was moved to another lot, and a brick parsonage was erected in its place by D. T. Sample of Cape Girardeau at a cost of \$8,000. The first to occupy this parsonage were Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Montgomery.

In the fall of 1952 Rev. William L. Meyer became the pastor of this church. It was under his leadership that the dream of many years came to be fulfilled. With the help of the Planning Committee, plans were completed for the erection of a much-needed educational building. Work on the new building was begun in the fall of 1954 and was completed in July of 1955. However, death claimed the pastor in March, before the completion of the project. It was an annex of two stories and a basement on the corner of Pecan and First Streets and was dedicated to Dr. Alfred F. Smith, an outstanding preacher from Mississippi County who later became editor of the Christian Advocate in St. Louis.

The main church building was remodeled in 1971 and is today the Charleston United Methodist Church. It has been served by the following pastors: 1831—John K. Lacey; 1832—R. W. Owen; 1833—Thomas Randall; 1834—A. Baird; 1835—V. P. Fink; 1836—A. Mellice and George B. Bowman; 1837—John W. Dole; 1838—Uriel Haw and Lysander Wiley; 1845—James G. T. Dunleavy; 1840—Uriel Haw; 1845—L. P. Rowland; 1846—Rev. Peterson; 1847—No record; 1848—Joe Woods; 1849—Geo. W. Bushey; 1850—Rev. Cardwell; 1851—Josiah McCary; 1852—H. S. Watta; 1853—H. N. Watts; 1854—J. L. McFarland; 1855—Josiah McCary; 1857—T. W. Mitchell; 1859—F. M. English; 1860—H. N. Watts; 1866—M. R. Anthony; 1867—William Pitts; 1868—D. J. Marquis; 1869—Rev. Dines; 1871—L. F. Aspley; 1875—B. K. Thrower; 1878—Rev. Frazier; 1879—C. O. Jones; 1881—J. W. Johnson; 1885—C. M. Hensley; 1887—J. T. Kendall; 1888—C. M. Ledbetter; 1890—J. F. Goldman; 1892—J. L. Batten; 1894—J. A. Beagle; 1896—W. B. Paty; 1899—R. L. Russell; 1902—M. T. Haw; 1906—J. M. Bradley; 1910—P. G. Thogmorton; 1914—C. M. Hawkins; 1917—L. R. Jenkins; 1925—E. H. Orear; 1931—P. A. Kasey; 1935—C. P. Thogmorton; 1941—J. C. Montgomery; 1952—William L. Meyer; 1955—E. W. Bartley, Jr.; 1959—J. W. House; 1968—William H. Mathae.

The first Methodist Church in the East Prairie community was a log cabin on the Franklin Millar farm, the second a two-

story community church on the Abraham Millar farm in the year 1883. The third one was built through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Drew, and several others in the year 1888. J. W. Nelson donated the site for the church on his farm, and he was awarded a contract to put up a building for \$650.00 to be completed by May 1, 1892.

In 1894 the congregation moved from this location north of town to the church which is now home of the Church of Christ. It was built by the Mellott Brothers in 1902 and shortly afterward an annex added. In 1935 a full-sized basement was built. Rev. D. T. Morrison of New London, Missouri, was pastor at the time.

In 1953 they sold this building and built the present church which is located at the corner of Washington and Martin Streets at a cost of \$62,000 and which is known as Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church in honor of J. W. Nelson. The first service was held January 4, 1954. In 1972 a two-story educational building was built, connected to the church. The groundbreaking service was held on October 1, 1972.<sup>23</sup>

The Methodist Church in Wyatt has been on its present site since being organized. The deed is dated 1906 to the Charleston Circuit of M. E. Church, with Thos. Vowels, Robert Vowels, and Dr. E. J. Rawls acting for the church. A chapel was added in 1949. Rev. J. C. Montgomery helped the congregation raise the money, and his son, Rev. Jack Montgomery later served as pastor for a time.

In August of 1892 James B. Smith, of Hainley's Switch decided to build a Methodist Church house on land donated by Joe Hainley. It was thirty by fifteen with fourteen foot ceilings. It was to be used by any denomination for church purposes.<sup>24</sup>

The present Methodist Church in Bertrand was built in 1919 on the site of the first church.<sup>25</sup>

In 1935 Methodist churches were built at Anniston, Dorena, and Pinhook.<sup>25</sup>

### *Baptist Churches*

The oldest deed to the Baptists was for one acre on Mrs. Ella Deal's land southeast of Charleston. It is dated April 10, 1835. A log house was constructed on the site and used until the 1850's. The deacons at that time were Isaac Sheppard and John Kennedy.

The real history of the Charleston Baptist Church dates to the year 1854, when it was organized by Rev. John M. Herrington with over two hundred members. During the years of the Civil War the church's attendance went down and its work was suspended. In 1868 the church was re-organized with the following charter members: Sam Ogilvie, Henry Cummins, Joseph Russell, Sr., Nancy and Sallie McElmurry, Judith Shelby, and Laetitia Bridges.<sup>26</sup>

The first house of worship to be erected by the congregation





CORNERSTONE LAYING ceremony for the First Baptist Church, 1910.



THE NEW BETHEL CHURCH, one of Brother Cooper's proudest achievements in rural church construction.



was a frame structure in what later became the negro section of the city. In 1884 the colored Baptists purchased the white Baptist Church and the white Baptists held church in the court house until they could build a new building on their lot just opposite the I. H. Bridwell residence. They purchased the lot from F. J. Jecko and it was located on the corner of Main and Pecan Streets just south of the present building. That year, under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Hess, a brick building was started and completed in 1885. The first service in the new church was in August of 1885.<sup>27</sup>

In 1894 circular opera chairs were purchased and put in the church at a cost of \$425.<sup>28</sup> In 1896 a \$600 pipe organ was installed.<sup>29</sup>

In 1905 funds were raised to purchase the Dr. H. L. Reid property for \$4,500 and in 1909 an architect was hired for the purpose of viewing the location and learning the kind of building the members wished to erect. They were planning a \$30,000 structure on the corner of their lot.<sup>30</sup>

The building was erected in 1911 under the ministry of Rev. William P. Pearce with the following acting as a building committee: J. J. Russell, E. P. Deal, Scott Alexander, and W. A. Ogilvie. The architects were Matthews & Clarke of St. Louis.<sup>31</sup>

Mt. Moriah was the original name of the Charleston Baptist Church but the name was changed to First Baptist Church when the present building was dedicated on March 26, 1911.<sup>32</sup>

Two stone tablets in the vestibule carry the names of the following pastors who had served Charleston Baptists since 1854: John Herrington, G. F. Bryton, A. J. Hess, S. T. Hudson, S. H. Morgan, A. Machette, Ben M. Bogard, J. D. Murphy, W. Alex Jordan, H. H. Wallace, D. P. Montgomery, William P. Pearce, Robert L. Lemmons, P. D. Mangum, S. W. Driggers, E. D. Owen, and J. S. Compere.<sup>33</sup>

A few months after the new building was built the old one caught fire from sparks from the Lutz residence built in 1852 and both buildings were destroyed.

An interesting fact is that Andrew Carnegie made a substantial contribution on the purchase of the pipe organ.<sup>34</sup>

The service hall was built in 1924 to meet the growing needs of the Sunday School.

In 1926 due to differences of opinion concerning certain church policies the church membership was divided but in 1933 this breach was healed and both factions came together to form a large organization.<sup>35</sup>

On April 1, 1951, Rev. Owen Sherrill accepted the call of the church and became pastor. On July 5, 1951, a building committee composed of the following was selected: Harry Johnson, chairman; F. M. Johnston, secretary; John Lee, George Staples, and H. G. Simpson, Carl J. Thye of Washington, D. C., was employed as architect and construction of the first unit of the

modern educational building was started in November with Byron E. Finley, local contractor, supervising. A drive for \$15,000 was successfully carried out in 1951 and another similar campaign completed in 1952.<sup>36</sup>

On November 16, 1952, the first services were held in the first unit of the new building which had been completed at the cost of \$45,000. The church voted in 1953 to start construction of the second unit of the educational building as soon as \$10,000 had been pledged or given. Construction started April 1, 1953, and the building was completed October 1, 1953.<sup>37</sup>

In 1951 the church purchased a new home at 407 Moore Street at a cost of \$15,000 for the pastor's home. This was later sold and a larger home on Commercial Street purchased.

Along with the development of the Charleston church the congregation sought to provide Bible teaching and preaching to out-lying communities.<sup>39</sup> Rev. Allen B. Cooper, however, was largely instrumental in this work. Between June, 1933, when he came to Mississippi County as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, until his death in 1965, Rev. Cooper was involved in the building of thirteen churches and one church annex in and near Mississippi County.<sup>40</sup>

"His" churches included the Wolf Island, New Bethel, Barnes Ridge, Bement, Unity, Dorena, Wyatt, Brewer's Lake, Sweet Home, Alfalfa Center, Henson, Deventer, and Mound City, Illinois, churches. It was the building of the New Bethel church in the Bridges community six miles southwest of Charleston, that gave Rev. Cooper the greatest joy.<sup>41</sup>

The church had been organized in 1890 in the Bridges school house with Bro. J. L. Atwood as pastor. Later there was an old frame church dedicated in 1903 by Rev. W. Alex Jordan. Some years later it was not adequate and the people of the community—farmers, home owners and a few big land owners—wanted a new one. Brick and other material was salvaged from the Presbyterian church in Charleston which had burned. The grounds for the church had been given by E. W. Ogilvie of Charleston. When the material was hauled to the site, no funds had been raised, but Earl Presson, living nearby, told Rev. Cooper to go ahead. He said that he and his neighbors would get a thousand dollars together and the balance would be obtained somehow. The finished church cost between \$9,000 and \$10,000, fully equipped. It was dedicated on November 19, 1944, and was regarded as a model of what a country church should be.<sup>42</sup>

The Baptist Church in East Prairie was organized and the first records available were kept in 1885 with J. J. Metheny as moderator. In 1890 a building was erected.

Around 1906 the East Prairie German Baptist Brethern Church was listed in the church directory.

The W. L. Wright Memorial Baptist Church in East Prairie

was dedicated on November 15, 1942. The building was of brick with a full basement and a \$2,000 Hammond organ.

The Hough's Station Baptist Church was dedicated in 1895 and the Bird's Point church in 1901. Rush Ridge Baptist Church was destroyed by fire in the early 1900's.

The Baptist Church of Wyatt was built in 1949 and under the guidance of Rev. A. B. Cooper a new addition was built in 1953. The Baptist Church in Bertrand was organized February 15, 1953. The Baptist Barnes Ridge Chapel about twelve miles southeast of East Prairie was dedicated the last Sunday in November of 1953.

#### *Christian Churches*

In August of 1853 S. D. Golder wrote to the Disciples headquarters, asking that an effort be made to organize a congregation in Charleston. It was not until 1876 that the congregation was organized. At a meeting in the court house conducted by one "Brother Flowers" the organization took place. The congregation held its meetings in the old Baptist Church structure, with the Rev. Sam M. Martin of Kentucky holding services once every three months.<sup>43</sup>

In 1890 a church building was erected on a lot donated by Lewis Danforth, located behind the present home of Mrs. Joe Howlett, on Franklin Street. The frame building had colored windowpanes and a large belfry, and the late Miss Grace Danforth is reported to have been the architect.<sup>44</sup> In 1896 Miss Danforth had charge of a musical entertainment given at the Opera House and the proceeds were to be used to pay for an organ for the church.

In 1904 the church was destroyed by fire. It was believed that a spark from the Malone's threshing machine caused a bird's nest in the belfry to ignite.<sup>45</sup>

The members then worshipped in the old frame Mississippi County court house. The present church, located at the corner of East Cypress and Virginia Streets, was built in 1906 by a Mr. Dalton of Cape Girardeau. Mrs. W. T. Marshall lifted the first shovel of earth and was accompanied to the church lot by Henry Danforth. In 1909 there were forty-four members and in that year Rev. H. F. Stevens became the regular pastor.<sup>46</sup>

Mrs. Walter Lee, who joined the church during the 1906 revival, and later served as organist, turned the first spade of dirt November 16, 1950, when the congregation built its parsonage. The dedication was held February 25, 1951, during the pastorate of the Rev. George Michel.<sup>47</sup>

In 1955 an educational building and fellowship hall was erected. The cost of \$15,000 included a new baptistry behind the choir loft.<sup>48</sup>

The list of ministers who have served the church has several gaps in it, but as prepared by the church historian, it included: 1911-12—Homer F. Cooke; 1913-14—A. J. Baird; 1917-18—C. C.

Minor; 1919—None listed; 1924—W. T. Walker; 1926—O'Neil Johnson; 1927—Gastav Winter; 1928—None listed; 1930—R. M. Talbert; 1936—None listed; 1937—C. F. Rose; 1939—R. M. Talbert; 1940—W. H. Eckroth; 1943—None listed; 1947-49—Ben H. Cleaves; 1950—George L. Michel; 1958—Charles M. Wickizer; 1960—C. R. Bowers; 1969—Larry E. Long; 1970—Ronald Moser; 1971—Rodney DeGroot.<sup>49</sup>

The First Christian Church in the East Prairie area was erected on a corner of the Abraham Millar farm in 1883. J. W. Nelson, a prominent citizen of East Prairie who came from Illinois in 1875 erected the building. It was a two story frame structure the first floor being used for a church by any denomination that cared to use it, and the second floor for a school and lodge hall of the National Grange Farm Association.<sup>50</sup>

The first services for the Christian belief were conducted by Rev. C. B. Colvin in 1883. The meeting proved to be very successful and among those converted at that particular time were: Mr. and Mrs. John A. Millar, Miss Mattie Martin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Chapman, Frank Bradley, and John McGill. At the time of organization the church had a membership of thirty.<sup>51</sup>

Dr. Samuel Preston Martin who was prominent in the church began trying to convince people that their church and school organized in the Millar community was too inconvenient for the people of East Prairie and should be duplicated in the growing city.<sup>52</sup>

He met with much opposition but in 1888 he succeeded in securing Mr. and Mrs. John A. Millar and several others to endorse his plans, and arrangements were started immediately to build a new church. Dr. Martin donated an acre of land located in the northeast corner of East Prairie that was a part of his farm for the site. C. C. Conyers, a carpenter and contractor, then residing in Charleston, was asked to furnish plans and estimates for the proposed church and upon their completion he was engaged to do the building which he completed in June of 1889. He moved to East Prairie while engaged in the work and he and his wife became members.<sup>53</sup>

The question of a new church was again discussed in November of 1924. A committee contracted to buy Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 15, the old City Hall lots in 1925. The church board sold the old city hall building for \$250.00 in 1926. This money was to have been the nucleus of the finances to build the basement of the new church, but it was lost in a bank failure.<sup>54</sup>

During the depression of the '30's, the congregation, under the leadership of Rev. Avery Z. Matthews, erected a basement to a new church building. The basement was completed in 1932. The brick church building was dedicated sixteen years later, in September of 1948, while Rev. Orby Beard was pastor. A. F. Lindsay of Sikeston was the architect for the \$35,000 structure



and Conyers again had charge of the building. It is of old Spanish Mission type, equipped with all modern conveniences, including a marvelous sound system.<sup>55</sup>

A Christian Church at Anniston was built around 1895 and a later one in 1901.

#### *Presbyterian Churches*

The history of the Charleston Presbyterian Church dates from the fall of 1871. At that time the church was organized and services were conducted in an old frame building, afterwards used by the colored members. A few years later it was destroyed by fire.<sup>56</sup>

On November 21, 1885, a lot was purchased from J. J. Russell and the trustees chosen to take charge of the church property at that time were: Judge H. C. O'Bryan, John Lindsay, and James D. Clarkson.<sup>57</sup>

Nothing was done for several years and many of those who were then Presbyterians joined one of the other churches.<sup>58</sup>

The Westminster Presbyterian Church was reorganized by Rev. J. E. Lathram of the Home Mission Committee of Potosi on December 9, 1906, and services were held at the court house. The charter members were: Mrs. H. C. O'Bryan, Miss Ella Rouse, Miss Azzie McMullen, Mrs. J. E. Armstrong, Mrs. T. M. Masterson, Mrs. Edgar Rowe, Mrs. B. A. Drane, Mrs. E. Lockard, Mrs. Luke Howlett, Mrs. Jean McCarthy, Mrs. Dixie O'Bryan, Mrs. A. Downey, Mrs. Leonard Howlett, Mrs. J. G. Russell, Mrs. E. R. Trickey, Mrs. M. McReynolds, and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Johnson. Johnson was the only male member.<sup>59</sup>

During the year of 1907 the members secured the lower half of the Masonic Hall for their place of worship. Services were conducted once a month during 1907, 1908, and 1909.<sup>60</sup>

The first minister was a young man, Rev. Roy Ray, who divided his time between Charleston and New Madrid. He did not remain long and then Rev. T. D. Latimer was called. In 1910 he resigned and Rev. J. D. Harley was called. Around this time the official board consisted of two elders, R. E. Douglass and R. B. Boyce; and two deacons, Charles Trickey and J. T. Buntin.<sup>61</sup>

On March 3, 1912, the pastor and members held a meeting at which time the decision was made to erect a church building at a cost of \$12,000. The contract was let to George Gassman and the building was erected on the lot on West Commercial Street previously purchased from J. J. Russell. A \$3,000 pipe organ and fixtures brought the total to almost \$25,000. On January 8, 1913, the first annual congregational meeting was held in the new building. It was formally dedicated January 19, 1913, and the trustees chosen were: Judge H. C. O'Bryan, John Lindsay, and James D. Clarkson.<sup>62</sup>

Ministers who have served the church follow with the approximate dates of their service. Some were part time, some students, and some were pastors: 1907—Roy Ray; 1910—T. D.

Latimer; 1912—J.D. Morley; 1913—Gelson Shaw; 1915—Robert L. Cowan; 1918—H. E. Hendricks; 1922—John Sexton; 1923—James H. Smith; 1926—R. F. Davidson; 1927—Glen Williams; 1930—William Hoover; 1931—William Schone; 1932—Bentley R. Schwegler; 1934-37—Dorsey D. Ellis.<sup>63</sup> The church burned in November of 1940 and was never rebuilt.

*Other Denominations*

At one time Anniston had a Cumberland Presbyterian Church.<sup>64</sup> There was also a Campbellite Church at Bertrand.

The East Prairie Church of God was erected in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. James Ford are thought to be the founders of that church and the first building was erected on their premises. The congregation later added a large tabernacle and in 1929 the old tabernacle was torn down and a much larger one built. They had in connection with the church and tabernacle, a lunch stand, dormitory, kitchen, and dining room that made it possible to assist in caring for visitors who came to attend the annual camp meetings. Crowds usually reached around the three thousand mark during the climax of these services.<sup>65</sup>

On November 21, 1939, the Charleston Church of the Nazarene held dedication services for their building on Pecan Street which took six years to complete.<sup>66</sup> Some years later it burned and a new building was erected on Thorn Street across from the present High School.

A religious census of Charleston in 1903 listed the following:

Total white population		1,751	
Males	388	Females	918
Methodists	313	Lutheran	5
Baptists	208	Catholic	111
Christian	29	Jews	23
Presbyterian	11		

Many of the county churches have gone the way of the county schools, but the church directory for July 27, 1972 lists the following:

<i>First Assembly of God Church</i>	<i>Elm Street Baptist Church</i>
606 South Main Street	Rev. Joe Jilbert, pastor
Rev. Marvin Launius, pastor	
<i>Anniston Baptist Church</i>	<i>First Baptist Church</i>
<i>Bement Baptist Church</i>	Main and Cypress
Bertrand	Rev. H. W. Chaney, pastor
Rev. Lewis Stone, pastor	<i>Wyatt Baptist Church</i>
<i>Shiloh Baptist Church</i>	Rev. L. R. Bowles, pastor
Locust and Brooklyn	<i>First Baptist Church</i>
Rev. James Hurd, pastor	Bertrand
<i>New Bethel Baptist Church</i>	Bro. Lee Fansler, pastor
Route 1, Charleston	<i>Anniston Christian Church</i>
Rev. Homer Stallings, pastor	

*Mercy Seat Baptist Church*  
 South Locust & West Marshall  
 Rev. R. H. Hunt, pastor  
*Southside Baptist Church*  
 School & Tom Brown  
 Rev. Clyde Livingston, pastor  
*Church of Christ*  
 Ninth and Shelby  
 Dewey McDowell, minister  
*Church of the Nazarene*  
 Rev. James Rupert  
*1st General Baptist Church*  
 West Ashby Street  
 Rev. Bill Meeks  
*Anniston Nazarene Church*  
 Rev. Eldon House  
*First Christian Church*  
 East Cypress Street  
 Rev. Rodney H. DeGroot  
*Free Pentecostal Church*  
 Johnson Street  
 Rev. Orville Wilson, pastor  
*Pentecostal Holiness Church*  
 Rev. Velton Hooper, pastor  
*United Pentecostal Church*  
 307 Helena Street  
 Rev. Gaylon Butler, pastor

*Anniston United Methodist Church*  
*Bertrand United Methodist Church*  
 Rev. Robert Burke, pastor  
*Bridges United Methodist Church*  
*The United Methodist Church*  
 South Main and Pecan  
 Rev. William H. Mathae, pastor  
*Perry Chapel A.M.E. Church*  
 Rev. James W. Webb, pastor  
*Wyatt United Methodist Church*  
 Rev. Floyd V. Browsers, pastor  
*St. Henry's Catholic Church*  
 304 Court Street  
 Rev. Msgr. Charles P. Schmitt, pastor  
 Rev. Michael Swalina, associate  
*The Church of God of Phrophecy*  
 505 Naomi Street  
 Dudley H. Hiles, pastor  
*Bible Holiness Church*  
 601 Baker Street  
 Rev. Raymond Brammer  
*Pentecostal Church of Christ*  
 South Fifth Street  
*Grand Avenue SDA Church*  
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## Chapter X

### WARS

#### *Civil War, 1861-1865*

The position of Missouri during the Civil War was unique. More than two thirds of her white population were of Southern stock, while in St. Louis 65,000 German immigrants formed a core of Union support. Slavery was not of primary economic importance in comparison with other slave states. There were 115,000 slaves owned by only 24,000 planters and farmers.<sup>1</sup>

Missourians wanted to compromise and peace but her strategic geographical position, her resources and wealth were sorely needed by both forces and as the nation became divided, so did Missouri. Some citizens joined with the South and others with the North, such division occurring not only in sections and in countries, but also in communities and families. This situation brought about the worst kind of warfare—neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother, and resulted in injustice, murder, pillage, bushwacking and general guerilla warfare.<sup>2</sup>

To understand the military operations in Southeast Missouri, it is necessary to remember that St. Louis was made the headquarters of the Federal troops in the state, and it was from there that expeditions were sent out towards the south and southwest to reduce those parts of the state which were held by the Confederates. When General Fremont assumed command of the Federal troops he was confronted with the question of whether to defend Southeast Missouri or to defend Southwest Missouri. He decided to defend the southeast and sent a fleet of eight steamers carrying infantry and artillery to Bird's Point, but finding nothing in particular for them to do at that time, he returned them to St. Louis.<sup>3</sup>

Southeast Missouri bordered on the river which was made the highway for the transportation of troops and supplies and for carrying on of certain operations against the South. This brought it into the very center of the war. Arkansas, the state immediately south of Missouri, seceded and from Arkansas a number of expeditions crossed the line into Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

In May of 1861 the state legislature passed an act providing for the organization of the Missouri Confederate State Guards. The state was divided into military districts and Southeast Missouri was made the first of these. The Governor appointed N. W. Watkins, of Cape Girardeau County, as Brigadier-General to command this military district. It was his duty to organize the State Guards in this part of the state. General Watkins found the work uncongenial and soon resigned the position. He was



succeeded by Jeff Thompson, whose headquarters for a time were established at Bloomfield.<sup>5</sup>

The Northern sympathizers who were not in the regular organized army, had been formed into Home Guards. Between these Home Guards and the Confederate State Guards there was constant hostility and warfare.<sup>6</sup>

On August 20 there was a skirmish fought at Charleston between the forces under Jason H. Hunter and the 22nd Illinois Infantry under Colonel Daugherty. Hunter was defeated and retreated to the main body of Thompson's force where he was placed under arrest for having violated orders. He had been instructed that he was not to fight a superior force, but only to discover the position of the enemy.<sup>7</sup> On the same date a skirmish was fought at Fish Lake near Charleston in which the Union forces were also victorious.

Many years later Mrs. Amanda Hunter Beckwith Medley made the following statement:

"My brother, Underwood Beckwith, served with General Jeff Thompson in 1861 and 1862. He was made a prisoner and was confined in the Gratiot Street Prison in St. Louis for several months. Afterward he was honorably discharged from the Confederate States Army."

"My grand uncle, Thomas Hunter, also served under General Jeff Thompson and was wounded at the Battle of Belmont. Later he went to Claiborn County Mississippi."

"My uncle, Joseph Hunter, served in the Confederate Army as a member of the Second Missouri Cavalry Regiment. He served during the entire war and was never captured nor wounded."

"My uncle, Ben F. Hunter, a brother of Joseph Hunter served in the Confederate Army under Jeff Thompson."

"My father, on account of his age and ill health, was not able to serve in the army, but in 1861 many of his slaves were driven away by the federal soldiers, because of his aiding and abetting the southern soldiers. The sudden warning of a friend enabled him to leave home between midnight and dawn. He took with him his wife and a five-day old baby and other children, and six or seven slaves. He returned home in the wake of General Pillow's army. On another occasion he and his family were compelled to leave the state, going to Arkansas, where he remained."

"My mother, sister and myself made clothes and knitted socks that my sister and I, eleven and thirteen respectively, carried for miles on mules through the woods to my brother, Underwood Beckwith, and the other soldiers in camp, who were being organized in Mississippi Coun-

ty, Missouri, to join Jeff Thompson.”

“In 1865, a girl of fifteen, I was ordered to report to Columbus, Kentucky, and take the oath of allegiance or be banished on account of having sung, ‘The Bonnie Blue Flag’ while waving the Confederate flag at a school commencement. Rather than take the oath I went to my grandfather, Abraham Hunter, of Scott County, Missouri, who had been forced to leave home and seek refuge within the Confederate lines in Claiborn County, Mississippi.

I remained there two years.”<sup>8</sup>

During the Civil War years, court records show that no Circuit Court was held from May 24, 1861 to November 17, 1862. Mississippi County leaned as a whole toward the Confederacy since most of its people had emigrated from states of the Confederacy. The army of General Gilmore was at one time within three miles of Charleston, with guns pointed toward the city. No battle was fought however and inhabitants of Charleston seemed to be very little concerned.

John Milton Hubbard, a private in Company E, 7th Tennessee Regiment Forrest’s Cavalry Corps, C.S.A., later referred to a brief foray made to Charleston in 1861, “It was during our stay in Missouri that we made an expedition to Charleston, situated in the vast flat prairie just west of the mouth of the Ohio, which we always reverted to with the keenest pleasure. The Federal Cavalry from Bird’s Point had been making almost daily visits to the town, which was strongly Southern in sentiment. This was thought to be a fine opportunity to show them ‘A taste of our quality’, or perhaps to capture the visiting detachment. But all was quiet in the village, as the enemy had made their visit and departed. Night was at hand and we were dirty, tired and hungry. It seemed to me that the whole population went to cooking for and feeding the soldiers. This was another one of these ‘Big eating times’ that we never did forget. When we were ready to depart even the pretty maidens would say to us, ‘Which will you have in your canteen, whiskey, water on milk’? It was thought best not to take any risk as to snake bites in the great swamp, which we had to recross, and I think the command took whiskey to a man. The inhabitants must have enjoyed a freedom from intoxicants for a season, for their town ‘had gone dry’ by an immense majority. We learned afterwards that there was a ‘whiskey famine’. We never saw Charleston again, as we very soon received order to advance into Kentucky and take post at Columbus.”<sup>9</sup>

Mrs. H. T. Bryant has in her possession the following letter written by Rachel J. Swank during the Civil War or soon thereafter.

“The Confedret Soldiers was killed down on Brewers lake bridge there was two of them one was a Mr. English the other

was a Mr. Strickland the Federal Soldiers which was called the bloody 19 left Norfolk in a day or two then my father mad two coffen out of some lumber he had some of the neighbor gathered went down and uncovered one of the Federals had stripped him all but a small shirt so Mother sent one man to uncles to get two sheets then they put them in the coffins buried in the North East corner said if any more was killed clost they put them there was no more killed and after awhile the negroes buried some of there collar there then Father got some friend to help him and he moved them over on the South side. Him and some more put up a double monument to there graves. It is broken intoo now."

"Then there was four Federals killed one morning as they was goin to Parkers for there breakfast they come out every morning first one place then another. There horses turned at the Bridge and run to my uncles John Brewer he took them to the Point and got father and mother to go and watch the hogs off of them two fell close to where they were shot then further one more further on one more then they come and got them the next day they took every man within 7 miles kept them a week they told my father they would shoot him because the ridge was named for him, he told them the ridge was named for his father but they could shoot if they wished that was his name. They did not shoot him."

The State Historical Society of Missouri lists the following skirmishes fought in Mississippi County.

Bird's Point	August 19, 1861
Charleston	October 2, 1861
Belmont	November 7, 1861
Charleston	December 12, 1861

Of these so called skirmishes only the Battle of Belmont became famous.

#### *Battle of Belmont*

On September 4, 1861, Gen. U. S. Grant reached Cairo, where he found Col. R. J. Ogelsby in command of the post. He at once relieved him, and placed him in command of the post at Bird's Point on the opposite side of the river. Two days later he took possession of Paducah, Kentucky, and placed Gen. C. F. Smith in command of the garrison there. During the next two months no movement of importance was made. Troops were constantly arriving at Cairo, and the time was spent in drilling and discipling them. By the 1st of November Grant had an army of twenty thousand men fairly well drilled but entirely inexperienced in war. On the 5th of November a telegram from St. Louis was received informing him that the enemy were reinforcing Price from Columbus by way of the White River, and directing him, if possible, to prevent it.<sup>10</sup>

Col. Oglesby had been dispatched with a force of nearly three thousand men a day or two before in pursuit of an equally

large body of Confederates who were reported to be on the St. Francois River about fifty miles to the west. Now Col. W. H. L. Wallace was sent with a regiment to overtake and reinforce Oglesby, and to change the direction of the expedition to New Madrid. At the same time Gen. C. F. Smith was ordered to make a demonstration on Columbus from Paducah, while Gen. Grant, with the remainder of his available force, amounting to three thousand men, dropped down the river on steamers conveyed by two gunboats to within about six miles of Columbus, Kentucky, where a few men were debarked to make contact with the troops from Paducah. Early the next morning it was learned that the Confederates were crossing troops to Belmont to reinforce the camp at that place, and Grant resolved to push down the river, land on the Missouri side, and capture and break up the camp and return.<sup>11</sup>

Just opposite Columbus and completely commanded by its guns, were three wooden shanties built on a low flat. This was Belmont, located in Mississippi County, Missouri. To this point General Polk had sent a force of 2,500 men under Pillow, intending to cut off Oglesby, who had been sent to the vicinity to aid in the pursuit of Jeff Thompson. Grant recognized Pillow's intention and decided to frustrate it by an immediate attack.<sup>12</sup>

About an hour after daylight on November 7, Grant was debarking his troops on the west bank of the Mississippi about one and a half miles above Belmont. At eight o'clock everything was in readiness for the advance. Two companies from each regiment were thrown forward as skirmishers and in a short time they met the enemy. The engagement soon became general and continued for about four hours, the Confederates falling back until finally compelled to take refuge below the river bank. Here the Federals forfeited an opportunity to secure a signal victory. As soon as they reached the deserted camp they threw down their arms and began plundering the tents, giving the enemy time to work along the river bank and get between them and their transports.<sup>13</sup>

Finding his commands disobeyed, Grant set fire to the camp and at the same time the enemy guns opened fire. The men were thus brought to their senses and retreated to the boats. However, Pillow had also rallied his men and now took up a stand between the Union men and their boats. For a moment confusion threatened the Union ranks until General Grant calmly declared, "Victorious soldiers who have cut their way in can cut their way out again." A spirited charge put the Confederates to flight for the second time. Although Polk sent over reinforcements from Columbus, they arrived too late to be of aid in cutting off the Federals.<sup>14</sup>

Grant had accomplished his main purpose in occupying Polk's attention and diverting reinforcements from the Confederates in Missouri. Both sides claimed the victory,



however, the Confederates on the ground that theirs was the final factory; the Federals because their purpose had been gained and their loss was less,<sup>15</sup> being 607, including 120 killed, 383 wounded, and 104 captured or missing, while that of the Confederates as reported by General Polk was 105 killed, 419 wounded and 117 captured or missing, for a total of 641.<sup>16</sup>

Paradoxical as it seems, public opinion in the North swung to the Confederate view and Grant received only censure. Grant himself had this to say in his "Memoirs" concerning the affair: "If it had not been fought, Colonel Oglesby would probably have been captured or destroyed, with his 3,000 men. Then I should have been culpable indeed."<sup>17</sup>

Belmont did not result in any strategic advantage despite Grant's assertions to the contrary. Grant's claim that he saved Oglesby and prevented Confederate troops from moving to assist Price has no basis in fact. In reality the strategic balance in the area remained the same. Grant returned to Cairo to await another opportunity. Down river the rebels still occupied Columbus and Belmont, and the Confederate defensive line in the Mississippi Valley stood unbroken.<sup>18</sup> C. H. Fisher, postmaster at Belmont, found and preserved a musket and some cannon balls.

The remaining events of the year 1861 in Southeast Missouri consisted of small skirmishes and desultory fighting. On December 11 there was a skirmish at Bertrand and on the next day one at Charleston.

In 1862 Guyla Morehead in a letter to a friend wrote, "From Charleston, Missouri, comes the terrible news that Captain Pliny Fox had been prisoner, the Stars and Stripes torn down, and the Confederate flag flown there during the week of August 23, 1862. Captain Fox, with a military escort had been enrolling men in Mississippi County. He sent his escort on to Bird's Point but stayed himself at the Charleston Hotel for the night. About midnight the guerillas forced his door, ordered him out, put him on a horse, and left with him. Before leaving they tore down the Stars and Stripes at the Court House and ran up the Stars and Bars, and stole two horses from the George Kenrick stables."

"Two guerilla gangs each about one hundred strong have been reported organized. The one in Grand Prairie under the command of Ice and Taylor, late of Thompson's Army. The other in charge of a man named Hayes, but not the recently elected Judge-J. B. S. Hayes."

"Horses, saddles and guns are taken from residents suspected of being sympathisers to the Union Army. They are operating in Mississippi, Scott, Stoddard and New Madrid counties but do not seem to have any connection with the Confederate Army."

"Captain Pliny Fox was released through the efforts of Messrs. Calful (?) and Shelby and to the newspaper in Cairo, Monday morning, saying that he had been harassed but not

harmmed."

Si Smith in a later letter recalled, "We lived in fear of robber bands which were very numerous. I was arrested at my home by Federal soldiers and put in a guard house at Bird's Point. I was released in a short time through the influence of Union men and Federal soldiers who knew me before the war and were my friends."

A skirmish at Charleston on January 7, 1862, was reported by Col. Nicholas Perczel of the Tenth Iowa Infantry stationed at Bird's Point under the command of Brig. Gen. E. A. Paine.

"Sir: In pursuance of your orders, on the 7th instant I took the cars with my command at 9 o'clock p.m. We left the cars at 11 p.m., joined the cavalry attached to my command, and proceeded towards Prairie road, on which, at one Swank's house, a body of Tennessee cavalry, numbering about 1,000 men, were supposed to be encamped. I formed my line as follows: Guide and two troops at the head of the column; Company A, Tenth Regiment Iowa Volunteers, as advance guards; then formed the detachment of the same regiment and that of the Twentieth Illinois under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Small, of the Tenth Iowa, the cavalry in the center; then the detachment from the Eleventh and Twenty-second Illinois Regiments, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Ransom, the Twenty-second bring up the rear. We proceeded in the greatest and perfect stillness, my instructions being to surprise and fight the rebel forces. The night was cloudy and rainy. Our guide several times lost his way, which delayed our progress considerably. At last, at 4 o'clock in the morning, we heard the distant and faint sound of a bugle. Marching on, we emerged into a more open country and a better-beaten road, but our guide having lost all calculation he did not know which side to take, and was obliged to awake the inmates of a farm-house and led us in the direction indicated by them. We passed seven farm-houses without molestation."<sup>19</sup>

"Towards 4 o'clock we found ourselves on the back track to Charleston. Here only was I informed by the guide that we had passed the pretended camp of the rebels. I think he did not know it himself. We marched a short distance in this direction till we reached a farm-house with the door open and fire and light in the room. As it looked to me a little suspicious, I detailed Captain Stoddard, with a squad of men, to visit it. He entered it and found the owner, Mr. Rodan, washing himself, and the different members of his family at household work. When asked whether he had seen any rebel soldiers, he replied that he had seen but one soldier during the last two weeks. Nothing extraordinary having been discovered, Captain Stoddard returned to his post, and we resumed our march. We had not proceeded more than 150 yards when, as soon as the guide and advance guards passed a body of rebels, almost 75 or 80 men, ambuscaded on the right of the road behind a rail fence, opened upon the detachment of

the Tenth Iowa a deadly fire, covering almost all its length. I was at the head of this detachment, with Lieutenant-Colonel Small, commanding. The men were thrown into confusion, returned the fire at random, and probably without effect, but by our united efforts they were rallied in less than two minutes. Captains Randleman and Lusby, having been ordered to cross the fence and pursue the rebels, did it with spirit and promptitude, but the rebels, as usual, disappeared. Not knowing the force of the rebels, I thought it prudent to reform our line to the rear in the woods on our left, and began the painful duty of collecting our sick and wounded. Assistant Surgeon Dr. Willey, and his aid, Ephraim R. Davis, steward, took with considerable zeal and activity to their work, and a little later were ably assisted by Dr. Bailey of the Twentieth Illinois. Short as the fire was, the Tenth Iowa had 5 killed, 2 mortally wounded, and 15 more or less severely. The line of ambuscade did not reach the other detachment. I must remark that even towards dawn the darkness was so intense that I did not dare to push my advance guard forward. I followed it closely for fear that we might lose each other. I could not throw out any flanks, because, even at the shortest distance, the connection must have to be kept up by hailing, which would have frustrated all attempts to surprise the rebels, by giving them early and continued warning. Deplorable as the result has been, I have to congratulate the promptitude with which every officer and man, notwithstanding the effect of first surprise, obeyed every order. Lieutenant-Colonel Small and all the officers have done their duty. On the 8th instant, in the morning, we put our sick on the cars and returned to our quarters."<sup>20</sup>

"The man Rodan having willfully and damnably denied all knowledge of the presence of the rebels, while in all probability the ambush proceeded from his house, I arrested and had him turned over to the officer of the post guard. He is at all events guilty of a capital crime, having misled us by his feigned ignorance and caused by this our severe loss. The charges against him will be made out and forwarded to the proper place."<sup>21</sup>

A small paper called the "Volunteer" published under the auspices of the 10th Regimental Iowa Volunteers, Vol. 1, No. 1 and dated January 27, 1862, reported on another expedition, "Yesterday morning, Jan. 25th, about 7 o'clock, 375 soldiers of the Iowa 10th under command of Lt. Col. Small, accompanied by Adjutant T. W. Jackson and Surgeon Wm. P. Davis left Bird's Point, via. Cairo and Fulton R. R., to join the main Expedition under Brig. Gen. Paine, which left Bird's Point the day previous. Arriving at Charleston about 11 a.m. we found the rest of the troops quietly encamped there. After the impromptu prayer meeting Brig. Gen. Paine, accompanied by a cavalry body guard, started for Bertrand to join the main forces, leaving the detachment of the Iowa 10th, under Lt. Col. Small to guard Charleston. During the night all ingress and egress to and from

the town except on special pass, have been prohibited.”<sup>22</sup>

“This morning we have heard from the advance troops, who encamped at Bertrand last evening. Gen. Paine has sent to Bird’s Point for 3,000 additional rations, 1,000 of which are to be left with us, plainly indicating a tarry here of several days.”<sup>23</sup>

“The object of the present Expedition is undoubtedly to make prisoners of all the suspected persons in the vicinity. To the citizens of Charleston we have a word to say: Whatever your past course has been, one thing is certain, that if in the future you either directly or indirectly give aid or comfort to the enemy, or withhold information from us, no stone shall stand to mark where once your fair and lovely village stood.”<sup>24</sup>

The Iowa 10th Regiment was represented by: Lieut. Col. W. E. Small; Adjutant, T. W. Jackson; Surgeon, Wm. P. Davis; Co. A, Capt. N. McCalla; Co. B, Lieut. O. Adkins; Co. C, Capt. A. Stoddard; Co. E, Capt. N. A. Holson; Co. G, Capt. P. P. Henderson; Co. H, Capt. J. Orr; Co. K, Capt. R. Lusby; Quarter Master Sergeant F. W. Crosby; Sergeant Major John Cochran; Wm. Hanger, Drum Major.<sup>25</sup>

The *Independent* published by the 2nd Iowa Cavalry stationed at Bird’s Point had this to say, “To-day our village (Charleston) has been thronged with military—four regiments of infantry, two battallions of the 2nd Iowa, Cavalry, arriving from Bird’s Point—the three former, 26th Missouri, and two companies of the 2d I. C. leaving for points further on. We have however, a sufficient number left, to strike terror to the hearts of rebels, and fill the otherwise vacant houses. Gen. Paine also passed through and appearances indicate a blow speedily, of which rebeldom would better beware.”<sup>26</sup>

Legend has it that Confederate soldiers broke into the Charleston bank and took \$50,000 in gold bouillon with them and that Joseph C. Moore recovered the gold. The Confederates did take \$56,570 in gold and silver and according to existing records it was never recovered. The story preserved in the Moore family is that when the Confederates left with the money they took Moore, the cashier, as a hostage. When they camped for the night he succeeded in getting some of the money out of the saddlebags which he hid in a hollow tree and which he returned to the bank after he had been released.

The Charleston Branch of the Union Bank of Missouri issued paper money and, under the state law was compelled to keep a large amount of specie in its vault to redeem its circulation. In 1862 after the banks in St. Louis had, under an order from General Fremont, loaned the United States Government a considerable sum of money and since a general feeling of unrest was prevalent all over the state, especially among those who had control of trust funds, the Directors of the bank became alarmed and ordered the cashier, Joseph C. Moore, to notify all creditors of the bank to withdraw their deposits. This was immediately



done, and in a few days more than \$100,000 was paid out. At this time Judge Noah Handy was president, having succeeded John Bird in that position when the latter could no longer safely leave his farm, a portion of which had been seized and fortified by Federal authorities.<sup>27</sup>

John Bird, Noah Handy, Quiros Beckwith, George Whitcomb, Thompson Bird, Stephen Bird, William Bird, James L. Moore, Charles W. Moore, Joseph C. Moore, James Smith, Sr., Dr. W. A. Simpson, Major Kalfus, K. Gorman, and possibly others, owned \$75,000 of the stock, John Bird's holdings being larger than any of the others, and the parent Bank in St. Louis holding stock to the amount of \$75,000.<sup>28</sup>

The Daily Enterprise recorded the ensuing events, "All the officers and stockholders being Southern sympathizers, no fears were entertained of being molested by Confederate troops, which were at that time disputing the occupancy of this county with the Federal Government and were consequently greatly surprised and chagrined when, on a bright morning in the autumn of 1862, General Jeff Thompson, of the Missouri State Guard, appeared before the doors of the Bank with two twelve-pound cannons and two hundred men, and demanded of the cashier that the doors of the vault and safe be opened and that the funds of the Bank be delivered to him. The cashier declining to comply with his demand, the General said he had come for the money and intended to have it if he had to take it by force. He was prevailed upon to give the cashier time to notify the directors who quickly responded and assembled at the Bank. General Thompson again to them expressed his determination to take the funds at any cost. On being requested to reduce his order to writing on the records of the Bank he quickly did so, declaring if the vault was not opened in fifteen minutes he would turn his cannon on the building and open it by force. After entering their earnest protest on the record book, the board directed the cashier to open the vault and safe, when \$56,570 in gold and silver was taken out, placed in a wagon at the door and carted off to Bloomfield, Mo."<sup>29</sup>

"Ten thousand dollars in gold which the president had placed behind some books in the vault a few days prior to the raid, some \$6,000 in gold, silver and paper which was hidden in a stove by Dr. Bledsoe and K. Gorman escaped the rapacity of the General and was saved to the Bank. The Bank never recovered a dollar of this money. It was generally said it was squandered by the General, and it was never known to its legitimate owners that any of it was expended for the benefit of the Confederacy or the Missouri State Guard. It was said that with a small sum two one-pound cannons were purchased, but if ever anyone was killed with either of them except a young member of the State Guard, who was run over and killed by one of them on a march, such a rumor never reached our informant."<sup>30</sup>

"After the adoption of the Drake Constitution, Mr. Moore, refusing to take the 'iron-clad oath' prescribed by that instrument, resigned his position as cashier, and the parent Bank having determined to go into liquidation, Mr. Stephen Bird was elected cashier, and so successfully closed up the business of this branch that after all its misfortunes consequent upon the war, the stock holders lost only 15 or 20 per cent of their holdings."<sup>31</sup>

In 1901 of the stockholders of this Branch Bank, only "Uncle Jimmy Smith, aged 93, Dr. A. E. Simpson, Joseph C. Moore, and Stephen Bird were still living."<sup>32</sup>

The paper also related the aftermath of this event with another scare involving the bank building, "Not long after the cash was removed from the vault, Captain Ewing, with a company of Missouri Militia in the service of the Federal Government, took possession of the building. Using the logs from the county jail and some old stables about town, he surrounded it with a stockade some ten feet high and enclosing about a quarter of an acre of land. Here two of the soldiers shot by the Vernon boys while attempting to capture them, died."<sup>33</sup>

"After the withdrawal of Captain Ewing the house and stockade was occupied by a company of Mississippi county militia under the command of Captain Edwin P. Diehl (Deal) during their term of service. It was while thus occupied that a little war episode occurred which created considerable excitement and for a time caused the blood to flow much more rapidly through the veins of the brave defenders of our National flag than it was wont to do under ordinary circumstances. For a long time there had been no Southern troops heard of in the county and so little was any soldier or citizen apprehensive of any hostile parties daring to enter the town that most of the soldiers were in the habit of taking their meals out in town. Great, then, was the surprise when early one morning, while the sun was shining brightly and all around was quiet and peaceful and the Captain and the greater part of his company were beginning to enjoy their matin meal with their friends in town, when the alarm was sounded: 'The rebels are upon us! The rebels are upon us!'"<sup>34</sup>

"There was then a hasty throwing down of knives and forks and the gallant militia rushed pell-mell for their stockade and arms. The alarm was caused by some fifteen Confederates under the command of Lieut. James Fugate dashing through Main Street from the south. Opposite the residence of Geo. Whitcomb, Captain Diehl was shot in the arm and Private Proctor in the leg. The raiders made no halt, but passed rapidly by the stockade under a brisk fire from a few soldiers who were left on guard. After all this scare, no life was sacrificed, except that of a fine horse ridden by young Briggs Barker which received a shot as the stockade was passing, and fell dead on J. L. Moore's lot a quarter of a mile distance. Briggs soon stripped off saddle and bridle, and catching the first horse he came to in the lot, one which

belonged to Dr. J. L. Haw, mounted and was safely away.”<sup>35</sup>

The war left Southeast Missouri in a very deplorable condition. Its effects were the usual effects of war where it is brought home to the people. The fact that neighbors and friends and even members of the same family served on opposite sides tended to increase the bitterness that war naturally brings. There were hundreds of non-combatants who attempted to remain peaceably in their homes and who were killed during the war. The section was overrun by organized bands of lawless men who used the opportunity which war brings to live lawless and uncontrolled lives. They harried the whole country, they seized property when and where they pleased, and to resist them was almost certain to bring vengeance and perhaps death.<sup>36</sup>

Many flourishing towns were practically depopulated during the war. This was true of Bloomfield, Poplar Bluff, Fredericktown and other places in this district. The inhabitants were either killed in war or in the raids of the bands from either side, or else they were driven away from their homes and found shelter in other places.<sup>37</sup>

But not only was the loss of life appalling and terrible, the country suffered a very great loss of property as well. Houses were destroyed and burned and even whole villages were practically wiped out of existence by the torch and fields were destroyed. The stock that existed at the time of the war was either killed or driven away by the soldiers and robber bands or else it became half wild in the woods and some died of starvation and of neglect.<sup>38</sup>

It was certainly a most trying situation which the returned soldier from North or South was compelled to face as he came home from the war. He himself came home in most cases, practically penniless and must make a new start in life. Added to this was the fact that there was for some time no secure protection for himself or property against those bands that were unwilling to give up their marauding and plundering even when the war closed.<sup>39</sup>

Missouri contributed about 109,000 men to the northern cause. Remaining in the Union despite her slaves, she sent at least 30,000 men into the Confederate ranks. This represented about sixty per cent of the men of military age and places Missouri first among the states in proportion to population. No battles of first rank were fought in Missouri although the State furnished the battle soil for 1,162 engagements. This record was equalled by only two other states.<sup>40</sup>

Missouri's financial contributions to the war were very large, even excluding the value of her slaves which was estimated roughly at \$40,000,000.<sup>41</sup>

On July 9, 1865, a negro man named Anderson was sold in Mississippi County for \$1,000 according to the bill of sale. The transfer of title of this slave read: "We, Forrest H. Naples, have

this day sold, and do hereby convey to U. Beckwith, his heirs and assigns forever, for ten hundred dollars, to us paid, for slave named Anderson, age 22 years, of darker color. We warrant the title to the said slave to the said Beckwith, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claim or claims of all persons, and we also warrant said slave to be sound, healthy, sensible and slave for life."<sup>42</sup>

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 declared slaves free in all areas of the Confederate States still in rebellion. But slavery was not entirely abolished until the states had ratified amendment thirteen to the Constitution in January of 1865.

#### *Union Troops*

The union troops organized in Missouri for service in the Civil War were of five different kinds. The first of these were Home Guards, as they were called, enlisted for a period of three months. At a somewhat later period there began the enrollment of what was called the Six Months Militia. The third group of organizations was called the Missouri State Militia, the fourth group were the Missouri Volunteers. This group contained the principal number of regiments and saw active, hard service in the campaigns of the war. Just about the close of the war there were enlisted in Missouri a number of regiments known as the Enrolled Missouri Militia. These regiments served for a very short time, the organization of some of them was never even completed owing to the fact that peace was made almost immediately after they were enrolled.<sup>43</sup>

The reports of the Adjutant General of Missouri published in 1863 and 1865 listed the following Union Organizations for Mississippi County.

#### *Union Organizations*

The Seventy-ninth Regiment was organized in June, 1863, in Scott and Mississippi counties; Henry J. Deal was colonel; George M. Kayser, Adjutant, and Solomon D. Golder, surgeon. The captains were: Co. A, Edwin P. Deal; Co. B, L. W. Prichett; Co. C, Samuel Coleman; Co. D, George C. Vail; Co. E, W. W. Campbell, later C. Grojean; Co. F, Samuel Tanner; Co. G, James H. Howard; Co. K, John L. Painsberry.<sup>44</sup>

The surplus companies which had been raised for the Forty-seventh Regiment were ordered to be organized into the Fiftieth. The only company officer from Mississippi County was captain of Co. B, E. P. Deal.<sup>45</sup>

Some of the companies of the Twenty-third Regiment of the Missouri Enrolled Militia were from Southeast Missouri also. The officers of these companies were as follows: Co. B, captain, Joseph H. Vaughn and Lieutenant, Ignaz; Co. C, captain, J. H. Bridges, lieutenants, David Baker and William H. Bartless; Co. D., captain, Joseph M. Ayer; Co. E, captain, S. R. Hoglan; Co. F, captain, George W. Hutson; Co. H, captain, Robert L. Bush.<sup>46</sup>



### *Confederate Organizations*

One of the first was a regiment organized at Belmont with John Smith as colonel, and Solomon G. Kitchen, lieutenant colonel, and H. H. Bedford, major. Just before the battle was fought at Belmont, the regiment was ordered to New Madrid and took part in the skirmishes and battles around that place. In 1863 it was sent across the river to Memphis and made a part of Price's army. It operated under Price until the close of the war and took part in most of the battles fought by that command.<sup>47</sup>

Thomas Beckwith of Charleston had in his possession in 1905 a document showing the enlistments of a company formed at James Bayou, Mississippi County, which was then an important point. It was the Muster Roll of Captain Charles P. Price's Company of Missouri Rebel Troops in the First Regiment—Brigade of First Division of Missouri State Guard. It included those who enlisted between July 5, 1861 and September 16, 1861 to serve for a term of six months.

Name	Rank	Where Enlisted
Charles P. Price	Capt.	James Bayou
William P. Swank	1st Lt.	James Bayou
J. S. Goodin	2d Lt.	James Bayou
Thomas Beckwith	3d Lt.	James Bayou
William Wilbur	1st Sgt.	James Bayou
A. P. Lane	2d Sgt.	James Bayou
W. J. Guthery	3d Sgt.	James Bayou
Mathen M. Myrick	1st Corp.	James Bayou
G. R. Norman	2d. Corp.	James Bayou
Cyrus Swank	3rd Corp.	James Bayou
Akins, James A.	Private	James Bayou
Adams, J. Z.	Private	James Bayou
Adams, George	Private	East Prairie
Aytcher, John	Private	East Prairie
Brown, James B.	Private	New Madrid
Bryant, C. W.	Private	James Bayou
Brumfield, E. E.	Private	James Bayou
Bryant, Thomas O.	Private	Bald Knob
Brady, Morgan	Private	James Bayou
Bumpass, J. S.	Private	New Madrid
Bivion, Jobe	Private	New Madrid
Brown, Joseph	Private	James Bayou
Bowles, Dennis	Private	East Prairie
Beckwith,	Private	-----
Underwood		
Campbell, G. M.	Private	James Bayou
Cobb, J. R.	Private	New Madrid
Devers, James W.	Private	James Bayou
Danforth, A. H.	Private	James Bayou
Davis, J. N.	Private	James Bayou

Derrington, H.	Private	Sikeston
Derrington, W. C.	Private	New Madrid
Dukes, J. C.	Private	New Madrid
Dillon, Thomas	Private	East Prairie
Dick, Shelby F.	Private	James Bayou
Derrington, Ewing	Private	Belmont
Frank, Abraham	Private	James Bayou
Frisbee, T. F.	Private	James Bayou
Fugate, J. H.	Private	East Prairie
Fagan, John	Private	Sikeston
Gaty, Hawkins	Private	James Bayou
Gist, Thomas	Private	East Prairie
Gutherie, Mat	Private	East Prairie
Goodin, Frank S.	Private	East Prairie
Hodge, J. W.	Private	James Bayou
Hamilton, Frank	Private	James Bayou
Harris, D. B.	Private	James Bayou
Holeman, G. P.	Private	James Bayou
Hancock, J. W.	Private	New Madrid
Humphries, A. J.	Private	Bald Knob
Hall, O. T.	Private	James Bayou
Hagan, Randall J.	Private	James Bayou
Hodge, Robert	Private	James Bayou
Holloway, Alfus	Private	James Bayou
Haley, W. C.	Private	Sikeston
Jobe, John A.	Private	James Bayou
Kendall, Daniel	Private	James Bayou
Kalfus, C. C.	Private	New Madrid
Keene, Riley	Private	East Prairie
Logan, Robert J.	Private	New Madrid
Lee, James A.	Private	James Bayou
Moore, Preston	Private	James Bayou
Miller, George R.	Teamster	James Bayou
Mitchener, John	Private	James Bayou
Morris, Thomas	Private	James Bayou
Martin, W. H.	Private	Sikeston
Martin, J. A.	Private	East Prairie
Martin, F. M.	Private	Sikeston
Martin, W. F.	Private	New Madrid
McBride, Wm.	Private	New Madrid
Martin, James	Private	James Bayou
Moore, Robert	Private	Sikeston
McAlester, J. B.	Private	East Prairie
Moss, J. M.	Private	Sikeston
Montel, George	Private	Sikeston
Martin, W. R.	Private	Sikeston
Miller, C. C.	Teamster	East Prairie
McFarland, S. A.	Private	Belmont
Narion, John D.	Private	James Bayou

Newmon, J. J.	Private	New Madrid
O'Neal, Edward	Teamster	James Bayou
Putnam, H. F.	Private	James Bayou
Putnam, J. G.	Private	James Bayou
Pretorius, Fred	Private	New Madrid
Pig, A. J.	Private	Belmont
Randol, E. G.	Private	James Bayou
Robenson, James	Private	James Bayou
Roberts, William	Private	New Madrid
Robenson, J. H.	Private	East Prairie
Rogers, Calven	Private	Sikeston
Sayers, William	Private	James Bayou
Simmons, William	Private	New Madrid
Smith, J. W.	Private	East Prairie
Smith, W. H.	Private	New Madrid
Talton, William	Teamster	East Prairie
Thomasson, James	Private	Belmont
Territt, John	Private	James Bayou
Vernon, T. R. Dr.	Private	Sikeston
Warner, O. P.	Private	James Bayou
Williams, Allen	Teamster	East Prairie
Worthington, Philip	Private	Sikeston
Weekly, A. G.	Private	James Bayou <sup>48</sup>

In the year 1905 all were dead except for six and three were still residing in Charleston. Those living were: Thomas Beckwith, J. Randol Hagan and J. Wash Smith of Charleston; John A. Mitchener, El Reno, Ok.; Underwood Beckwith, Bird's Point; and Robert Moore, Pascola, Mo., but descendents of many of the others were still living in the area.<sup>49</sup>

In 1925 a giant anchor sixteen feet long, and part of the huge chain which was stretched across the Mississippi River between Columbus, Kentucky and Mississippi County, was found when part of the bank caved in. One hundred fourteen links each about eight inches long and weighing twenty pounds each were found. A survivor of the war claimed that the chain was not cut by the Federals as claimed, but broke from the weight of the driftwood which collected on it.<sup>50</sup>

The anchor and part of the chain are preserved at the Columbus State Park in Kentucky. A few years ago James Clarkson Ogilvie and C. I. "Peachy" Lutz, Charleston residents, were instrumental in persuading the Park Board to give three of the links to the Mississippi County Historical Society.

The Mississippi County Historical Society also has a copy of the Civil War diary of Captain Samuel Kennedy Cox, Jr., Company A., 17th Kentucky Regiment 3rd Brigade 3rd Division 4th Army Corps. He enlisted as a private in the Union Army in January of 1862 at the age of twenty-three. After the war, he made his home in Hartford, Kentucky, and remained there until his death in 1924. He married Irene Brotherton of Owensboro,

Kentucky, April 20, 1870. To this union were born seven children: Arthur, died in childhood, Mary Cox White, Ella Cox Collins, Corinne Cox Rogers, Samuel Sullivan Cox, Isabelle Cox Birkhead, and Fannie Cox Goodin, mother of A. Vernon and Sam Cox, of Charleston, Ann Goodin Brown of St. Louis, and Myrtle Goodin Smith, who died in 1934.

#### *Spanish American War of 1898*

For at least three years before the outbreak of the war between Spain and the United States, Missourians had taken an active interest in the Cuban fight for independence. Petitions were sent to Congress urging recognition of Cuban independence, organizations were formed to aid the Cubans, and sympathetic mass meetings were held. Missouri military companies began organizing early in the spring of 1898 in anticipation of war. When war was declared in April of that year, Kansas City, St. Louis, and many smaller cities celebrated wildly with whistles, bells and street parades.

The formal demand for troops came on April 29 and Missouri's quota at that time was set at five regiments and one battery of light artillery. Ruby W. Waldeck in her treatise on, "Missouri in the Spanish-American War", published in the Missouri Historical Review for July and October, 1936, reported that Missouri furnished 8,083 state troops for the war, with 327 commissioned officers. Only four states had sent a greater number of men.

No records have been found of the men from Mississippi County who served in the war, but Mr. E. E. Bryant recalled, "One day in the fall of 1898 three troop trains loaded with cannons, equipment, supplies, and men passed through Charleston headed for Belmont, Missouri, where they crossed the Mississippi River on ferry boats and headed on across the country towards Cuba. These trains had come down from Jefferson Barracks, just south of St. Louis, on the Belmont Branch of the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad."

"I well remember that my mother took my brother and me about a block south of our house to see this train pass. I've been told also that on this train was one of our home town boys—Tom Preuitt. I've been told also that his mother met the train with a large amount of coffee prepared which was passed out to the Soldiers."

#### *World War I, 1914-1918*

Missouri throughout its history has been a meeting place of northern and southern streams of immigration. While the sectional backgrounds of Missourians had been a factor in dividing the state in 1861 these geographical antecedents were by 1910 matters of purely social interest.<sup>51</sup>

Prior to the entrance of the United States into the war the small-town and rural papers did not comment very frequently on world affairs. The idea that the United States might intervene in



the conflict developed slowly but as the submarine incidents multiplied and the German's intentions were revealed in the Zimmerman plot, Missourians with a high degree of unanimity concluded that the maintenance of American rights and the preservation of a world balance of power favorable to the United States were more important than the safeguarding of peace.<sup>52</sup>

As soon as war was declared the first volunteers from Mississippi County were: R. S. Pulliam, Noel E. Swank, Harry Williams, Claude Edwards, S. W. Andrews, and Reece Davidson.<sup>53</sup> The first draft call for men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty was on June 5 of that year. In Mississippi County 1,314 registered, of whom 478 were from Charleston.

John Favors, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Favors of near Charleston, was the first from the county to die. He had enlisted in the Marine Corps two months before his death, which was due to pneumonia. Over 1,000 persons were present at his funeral on April 7, 1918. The following year Sergeant Gabe Mansfield was the first soldier from the county to lose his life in active service.<sup>54</sup> *World War II, 1939-1945*

A total of approximately 450,000 Missouri men and women served in the armed forces between the declaration of war on December 8, 1941, and the Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945. Included in this number were eighty-nine generals and admirals.<sup>55</sup>

In the first draft registration in October of 1940 there were 3,368 in Mississippi County who registered for duty.<sup>56</sup>

Glen Clifton Swank was the first casualty from Charleston.<sup>57</sup>

On September 2, 1945, after three years and nine months of sacrifice and struggle, Americans listened to a description of the surrender ceremonies from Tokyo Bay. Douglas MacArthur and American and Japanese officials signed the formal surrender aboard the U.S.S. Missouri.<sup>58</sup>

A marble monument on the Mississippi County courthouse lawn erected in memory of the sixteen men who died in service in World War I also carries the names of those who died in succeeding wars: fifty-six in World War II, six in the Korean War, and eight in the Vietnam War. Those honored are: *World War I*: P. (Col.) Atcher, Tom Barnes, L. N. Cauthorne, C. Cooper, J. W. Cooper, J. Culp, C. M. Eaton, C. Edwards, John Favors, H. V. Greer, H. L. Gruner, F. Krauss, G. Mansfield, R. A. Mattingly, Bee Tatum, W. O. Tatum; *World War II*: C. D. Adkison, W. Alexander, W. J. Alvey, A. E. Banks, E. Bowles, L. L. Brewer, W. D. Cobb, J. Cole, J. Conn, M. N. Corbitt, B. Cranford, C. E. Davis, S. D. Durbin, C. E. Eastwood, H. T. Eaton, C. M. Elliott, W. B. Farley, C. H. Fields, B. L. French, N. French, B. F. Furlong, L. L. Gaines, B. F. Hale, G. W. Hale, J. L. Harp, H. T. Hayden, R. C. Hayden, W. H. Jackson, G. M.

Jenkins, E. M. Johnston, R. L. Kimbrough, C. A. Laird, Jr., G. E. Lay, M. M. Lee, C. W. Lemons, C. Mays, T. McCleary, R. S. Miller, W. G. Moxley, R. F. Ogborn, R. M. Oliver, L. S. O'Reilly, Jr., H. Presson, A. E. Robertson, H. A. Shirley, J. O. Sims, E. C. Smith, G. C. Swank, L. Tarver, J. L. Thresher, R. L. Tomlinson, I. L. Whitehead, T. E. Whitney, W. Wilkerson, C. M. Williams, J. E. Wyatt; *Korean War*: R. L. Allbritton, C. M. Anderson, F. L. Enlow, D. E. Franklin, H. B. Sigers, L. W. Tarver; *Vietnam War*: D. R. Carlyle, D. E. Davis, M. Grimes, R. Q. Henderson, T. D. Higgerson, T. G. Naile, J. D. Plummer, C. H. Whipple.

The American Legion, Mattingly Post 232 has erected an "eternal flame" by the monument.

## Chapter XI

### NEWSPAPERS

The minister, physician, lawyer, merchant, and journalist were among the early settlers in any community, with the journalist among the last of the professional men to arrive. The reason for this delay might be the needs that must exist in a community before a newspaper can operate successfully.<sup>1</sup>

There were four agents which fostered the founding of the pioneer journal: the government, which needed to publicize its laws; the politician, who wished to crystallize public opinion; the literate citizenry, who sought information, amusement, and intelligence; and the printer-editor, who had both altruistic and personal motives. Each agent needed the press to effectively participate in society. All four agents seldom, if ever, cooperated as one in establishing a public journal, but a combination of at least two of them was necessary for setting up a pioneer press.<sup>2</sup>

In order for a newspaper to flourish in an American community, considerable development beyond the earliest frontier stages had to take place. The editor had to consider many factors in his search for a place where he might publish successfully. He needed a sufficient number of subscribers, both town and country; a reasonable amount of advertising support from merchants, doctors, lawyers, artisans, bereft husbands, and the founders of estrays; adequate transportation facilities to move freight—paper, type, ink, and printing presses; and a regular and friendly postal service to provide low postage rates to subscribers and free exchange between editors. Almost as important to the fortunes of the striving editor was public printing, which provided an extra source of income from the local, state, or national government, and job print, such as handbills and broadsides. Some of the more enterprising editors even printed books and pamphlets. But when editors first arrived on the frontier, all of these sustaining factors did not always exist sufficiently, and consequently the pioneer newspaper business was at best a precarious enterprise.<sup>3</sup>

Charleston and East Prairie had numerous newspapers over the years. Most of them were of short duration, but the first one started called *The Courier* and a later one called *The Enterprise* were the most lasting and important. Some of the papers were daily, some weekly, and the early papers were published any place available, even in one instance, the back of a saloon. News from the county was scarce and hard to come by, so residents in the county often sent in news items. Contributions were seldom on a regular basis and were written by various persons who liked

to use a pen name such as: Turntable, Mystic, Anon, Rip Van Winkle, Little Book, Nuff Said, Swamp Angel, and others too numerous to mention.

The smaller dailies, led by the Charleston *Enterprise*, with 250 subscribers, had their problems. The Charleston *News* noted that one editor in 1897 was losing ten dollars a week on his daily, which prompted the Cape Girardeau *Press* to remark, "There is not a town in Southeast Missouri sufficiently advanced to sustain a daily newspaper."<sup>4</sup>

Early editors complained of the scarceness of advertising and in order to help with expenses they charged for running obituaries and wedding announcements. The usual fee was five cents per line, but allowing ten lines free.

Obituaries in the early newspapers were mostly of three types; a very short notice usually in the local items which seldom gave more than name, date of death, and age; a resolution concerning the deceased person written by a member of an organization or lodge which was usually quite flowery but contained only a small amount of information about the person's family history; and occasionally a quite lengthy and fairly complete obituary if the person were well known or the family wished to spend the money for having one printed.

The Charleston *Enterprise* of March 16, 1894, ran an item which said, "We received an obituary notice yesterday of some length, and as no money accompanied the article we did not publish same."

#### *Charleston*

The first newspaper published in Charleston was *The Courier*. It was established by George Whitcomb in the latter part of 1857.<sup>5</sup> Whitcomb originally came from Indiana and was a relative of the poet, James Whitcomb Riley.<sup>6</sup> It was an independent paper and was one of the few Southeast Missouri papers that continued to be published during the war, although subject to frequent interruptions.

In the July 18, 1862, issue of *The Courier*, George Whitcomb stated that the paper suspended publication in 1861 because Union troops broke into the office and much of the type and material was destroyed.<sup>7</sup>

From 1858 to 1872, it was managed by W. F. Martin, who was also the editor a portion of the time. It was sold in 1873 to Frank M. Dyer, who published *The Courier* until 1877, when he sold it to C. M. Dunifer.<sup>8</sup> Dyer later became the editor of the *Peoples Forum* published at Perryville, Missouri.

In 1875 *The Charleston Gazette* was established by George M. Moore, and the two papers were consolidated under the name of *The Charleston Gazette* in 1877. In a short time Dunifer withdrew from the firm and established a new paper called *The Sentinel*, which he moved to Arkansas two years later. Moore sold *The Charleston Gazette* to a joint stock company and a



short time later they sold it to W. H. Campbell. Campbell operated the paper something like a year and then sold it to Andrew Hill, and in April 1886, it was moved to Malden, Missouri.<sup>9</sup>

No copies of *The Gazette* have been found, but a 230 page record book found by Benjamin Bird Moore gives a fair insight into the working of the plant in 1876, 1880, and 1881. The partners, George M. Moore and C. W. Dunifer, apparently kept close tabs on income and expenses, and at the end of the year 1878, the record shows that Moore had withdrawn \$625.22 from the business, while Dunifer received \$549.42. Much of the advertising and job printing was "traded out".<sup>10</sup>

*The Gazette* had a fairly good list of subscribers in Charleston and additional readers in Bertrand, Durman's Mill, Wolf Island, Benton, Bird's Point, Sikeston, Diehlstadt, and Hickman, Kentucky. The publishers exchanged papers with many other publishers in the state. The subscription price was \$1.50 per year.<sup>11</sup>

As to advertisers and advertising *The Gazette* was apparently well patronized, with most of the merchants and professional men buying a "standing ad" which cost them from twelve to fifteen dollars per year. It might be surmised, also, that *The Gazette* followed the usual procedure followed by newspapers of that era. Ads once written and set were usually published over and over again, never a change in copy, until expiration of the contract. It was customary, also, to run the ads week in and week out in the same relative position on the page.<sup>12</sup>

On May 27, 1875, George Martin, a son of W. F. Martin, who had published *The Courier* for many years, began the publication of a little sheet which he called *The Enterprise*. Martin was then only fifteen years old and his sole help in working the paper was another boy about his own age named Malcolm V. Golder.<sup>13</sup> They started in the family smoke-house with a job press and a small amount of type borrowed from Col. H. J. Deal. It was three columns and four pages six and one-half by nine inches for the subscription price of seventy-five cents and with a circulation of three hundred. In his August 7, 1885, paper, Martin stated, "The Charleston *Enterprise* has entered its 11th year, and is probably the only paper in Missouri the first number of which was issued from a smoke-house." Golder stayed with Martin for about six years.

The Charleston *Daily Enterprise* published by George W. and John F. Martin, was ten cents per week delivered and was delivered every morning except Monday but including Sunday. The *Weekly Enterprise* was printed on Fridays. In February of 1892 the *Daily Enterprise* was changed from a morning to an evening paper. Martin continued the publication of *The Enterprise* until April 15, 1893, when he sold it to his brother, John F. Martin.

S. G. Tetwiler sold the *Democrat* which he had published

since 1887 to John F. Martin on February 24, 1896. The final issue of the *Daily Enterprise* was July 13, 1901, but the weekly paper was continued.

On June 15, 1896, *The Enterprise* celebrated its twenty-third birthday. In the first paragraph of his editorial Martin stated, "*The Weekly Enterprise* is probably the oldest paper in Southeast Missouri today except the *Jackson Cash-Book* and has lived to see no less than fifteen or twenty competitors go to the wall during its existence in this city."

In 1899 E. H. Smith founded the *Chronicle* which after it had run two years was merged with *The Enterprise*.

*The Enterprise* was sold to Colonel Paul B. Moore in March of 1901. From then until 1907 it was under the management of S. G. Tetwiler who tried for a short time to publish it twice a week but who soon went back to a weekly. Ida Bridwell was the society editor. That year the paper began the print photographs and pictures occasionally rather than all drawings.

The early newspapers appeared in a variety of sizes and styles. All type was handset and that factor in itself limited the physical size of the finished product. Some appeared in tabloid form, some as a "blanket sheet". The number of columns varied also as did the column width of type.<sup>14</sup>

Many of the early newspaper files were not kept in book form, or were not preserved at all. In some instances editors loaned some of the files to individuals for various reasons, and those files remained "loaned out". Several dozen bound and unbound volumes of the early *Enterprise* were stored for several years in a basement. Dampness and "silverfish" took heavy toll.<sup>15</sup>

In March of 1901 F. A. Wiggs of Mountain View began a paper in Charleston called the *Charleston Star*. It was a Republican paper and it too had a short life. In 1905 the *Enterprise* carried an item which stated, "The *Charleston Star* which was recently purchased from its founder F. A. Wiggs and placed in the hands of R. L. Finney, suspended publication last Tuesday. It is reported that John F. Martin, late of the *Courier*, will take hold and try to give it life."<sup>16</sup> However, the printing outfit was sold to Rev. Josephus Lee, who moved it to Sikeston for the use of the Baptist organization.<sup>17</sup>

*The Charleston Republican* started by Paul B. Moore and George Nelson and edited by G. N. Stille began publication on October 6, 1906. In 1912 Frank W. White became the editor and in 1914 it was acquired by Dr. John M. Rowe with Mrs. E. H. Smith acting as managing editor.

The *Charleston Courier* was started around 1903 by John F. Martin and was edited by Reed & Rumsey. A short time later George B. Presgrove took it over and in a few months E. H. Smith became editor. In 1914 Frank D. Lair became the editor and manager.

In the year 1907 R. E. Douglas became the editor of *The Enterprise* and remained until 1915 when Col. Paul B. Moore, owner of *The Enterprise* and Frank D. Lair, publisher of *The Courier*, got together and the complete *Enterprise* was purchased by *The Courier*. The name was changed to the *Enterprise-Courier* with Lair the owner and publisher.

That same year Lutz and Howle started a new daily called the *New Idea* which lasted a very short time.

In 1917 Lair bought the *Charleston Republican* from Dr. John M. Rowe and E. Harold Smith took over the editorship. The arrangement placed about nine hundred new names on the lists of the *Enterprise Courier*, giving it a total list of about 2,500, the largest that any newspaper in Mississippi County had ever had to date. On April 19, 1924, it was sold as part of the estate of Stella Rowe Smith to E. H. Smith and E. Harold Smith.<sup>18</sup>

From 1918 to 1920, Ernest D. Howles published a paper called first the *Index* and later the *Daily Index*. It was purchased in 1920 by E. H. Smith, owner of the *Enterprise-Courier*.

The *Charleston Times* was started in 1921 by S. P. Loebe who in 1928 purchased the *Enterprise-Courier* from Smith & Smith and for a short time he combined the names but soon retained only the name *Enterprise-Courier*.<sup>19</sup>

In 1929 Mrs. E. H. Smith started the *Charleston Democrat* which was subsequently managed by J. M. Haw, R. Loyd Lovelace, Lex May, Darwin K. Flanigan, E. H. Smith, Vane W. Brannock and Glen G. Meinershagen.

Art Wallhausen, Sr. became the editor of the *Enterprise-Courier* in 1936 and in May of 1938 bought the *Enterprise-Courier* from S. P. Loebe. In 1955 he acquired the *Democrat*, abolishing that title. Wallhausen Sr. died in 1969 and his son, Art L. Wallhausen, Jr., is now managing editor.

There were other papers published from time to time in Charleston. Most were started around 1893 and at one time Charleston had four newspapers. One of these was a daily and weekly Democratic sheet named *The Call* published by H. D. Lutz, whose printing outfit was destroyed by fire. Another was started when Miss Mary Dever purchased the defunct outfit of the *Hibbard Herald* and started a weekly paper. The proprietors of the *Sikeston Advocate* rented rooms over the store of G. W. Kenrick and also started a paper.

The *Enterprise*, *Courier*, and *Times*, or a combination or consolidation of one or more, have been located at several places in Charleston. One location was on Court Street, another on Commercial Street, but in the 1920's in that period when S. P. Loebe was editor, he purchased the People's Bank of Charleston at 206 South Main Street, and had the printing equipment moved to that location where it remains today.

*East Prairie*

In 1893 S. G. Tetwiler, of the *Charleston Democrat* started a



Weekly Enterprise building on Court Street in 1910.



Enterprise-Courier building at 206 South Main Street as it looks today.



paper at East Prairie and planned to run it in connection with his paper at Charleston.

In 1894 H. D. Lutz started publishing a paper called the *Hibbard Call* and in 1895 it was located in the rear of a pool room. In the same year Lutz moved to Charleston to start a newspaper and job office.

The daily and weekly *Hibbard Herald* published by W. F. Story ceased publication in 1893 but in 1894 he started another daily and weekly called *The Nerve*.

In 1895 or 1896 Guy E. Cooksey established *The Hibbard Banner* at East Prairie but it suspended publication after two years. *The Hibbard Banner* published by Jackson and McCann ceased publication in 1900. Cooksey resumed publication in March of 1901 and named it *The Leader*.

On April 20, 1905, Cooksey sold *The Leader* to David Bright and E. R. Gibbs of Hickman, Kentucky. It was a four column paper and the name was changed to *The East Prairie Eagle*. After a partnership of two years Bright bought the half interest of Gibbs. Moynahan became associate editor. The paper was moved from 43 Locust Street to the DeField building and a new printing machine installed so that it was now a seven column folio. Moynahan left around 1908. In 1909 and a part of 1910 Frank Lee worked with Bright.

In 1913 Bright sold the plant to H. T. Galbraith and opened a notions business but his stock was destroyed by fire. On January 1, 1914, he bought from R. E. Douglass a half interest in the *Charleston Enterprise*.

In August of the same year Galbraith left the paper and Frank Lee remained as editor and manager. In January of 1917 David Bright once again bought *The East Prairie Eagle* and ran it until 1925 when he suffered a severe paralytic stroke and his wife assumed the active responsibilities as editor.

Arch V. Williams started the *East Prairie Journal* in 1908 but in 1909 he moved it to Arkansas.

On May 25, 1945, *The East Prairie Eagle* was sold to Art L. Wallhausen, Sr. of Charleston, and his wife helped with the publishing. In August of that year her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Savell, moved from New York and took over as editor and publisher. Today it is owned and published by their son, Joel M. Savell.

## Chapter XII

### *LIBRARY SERVICES*

The earliest mention of any kind of library service in the county was in 1904 when J. Handy Moore submitted a proposition to the county court for the establishment of a public library or reading room in Charleston. He planned to donate \$500 if the court and citizens would comply with certain conditions of the proposition. A room in the court house was to be used for the library.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently nothing came of the suggestion and in 1930 at a meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club it was decided that an effort would be made to establish a public library. Two rooms in the Y.M.C.A. building were secured and the library was formally opened on September 12, 1930, with 1,200 books. It was open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and evenings.<sup>2</sup> Miss Frances McFadden was in charge and in addition to the local collection the library received books every three months from the Traveling Library at Jefferson City.<sup>3</sup>

In 1933 the library was moved from the Y.M.C.A. to a room north of the Ashby restaurant on Main Street.<sup>4</sup> Some time later it was moved to the basement of the courthouse but finally closed because of lack of interest.

In 1942 the Business and Professional Women's Club again took over the sponsorship of the library. At that time it was moved from the courthouse to the Armory and was open each Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. with Miss Mildred Thrower serving as librarian and with Nona Thompson in charge on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m.<sup>5</sup>

In the summer of 1946 the Legislature passed a bill establishing the Missouri State Library as a department of the new State Department of Education, and authorizing the appropriation of funds for aid to tax-supported public libraries.

State Senator L. D. Joslyn was active in lining up a group of interested persons in Charleston. A public meeting was held at the courthouse and a citizens' committee formed with Clifton Banta as chairman. Speakers were selected to address organizations. Three people who did much to promote a tax supported library were Dr. Geneva Drinkwater, Mrs. L. D. Joslyn, and Mrs. Lawrence Simpson. The campaign was so successful that at the April election in 1947 the proposition for a one-mill tax was adopted by a vote of five to one.

The County Court appointed a library board—Miss Geneva Drinkwater, president; Mrs. Carleton Moreton, secretary; A. C.

Goodin, Clifton Banta and with County Superintendent of Schools, J. Abner Beck, as an ex-officio member. The library board hired Miss Elizabeth Turner, a professional librarian.

In quarters provided at the Charleston Armory, Miss Turner bought and cataloged books. By January of 1948, 3,000 books were ready for circulation, a bookmobile had been purchased and stocked, and both the Charleston and East Prairie branches were opened.

The Charleston Branch, housed in the Armory, was open to the public Tuesdays and Saturdays. The East Prairie Branch, housed in Beauton's Drug Store and sponsored by the Women's Improvement Club, was open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Bookmobile service was started at the same time with visits every six weeks to all forty-one school districts in the county and twelve adult stations. By March of 1948, sixty-three library centers had been established throughout the county.

Both branches were being operated in extremely crowded quarters but William H. Danforth had offered a contribution of \$25,000 for a building in Charleston and Harry S. Roberts had pledged \$10,000 for a building in East Prairie.

The formal opening of the East Prairie Branch, to be called the Mitchell Memorial Library, was held in November of 1948. It was the first library building ever built in the county and Geneva Drinkwater turned the first spade of dirt. The formal opening of the Charleston Branch and Headquarters building was in February of 1949.

During this time many additional services were being inaugurated by the librarian and staff—story hours for children, art exhibits, recording sessions, radio and club talks, special events for Book Week, and other events. The first art exhibit was of the work of Stephen Pace, a local artist who had moved to New York.

The circulation increased annually and the library was playing an increasingly important role in the county.

In January of 1950 the library added a film information service and purchased a 16 MM projector and screen. Film showings were added to the list of special activities sponsored by the library.

In November of 1950 Miss Turner resigned as librarian and Mrs. Betty Powell was appointed Assistant in Charge. She served in this capacity until September of 1951 when she was appointed as librarian. She still serves in that position.

In 1951 the library became a member of the Missouri Libraries Film Cooperative and since that time has received a film package each month consisting of fourteen films for free loan to organizations and schools.

In September of 1951, after requests for both branches to be open to the public more hours per week, the library hours in-



Bookmobile service to the East Prairie Project in 1950.



Bookmobile service to Dirk School in 1950. Elizabeth Turner, librarian.





Stephen Pace art exhibit at the Mississippi County Library in 1949.

creased and today both are open six days and one evening.

In 1953 the library started its record collection with ninety-two recordings which has increased to 979.

For seven years the library has been operating with a converted panel truck as a bookmobile. In 1955 the library board authorized the purchase of a bookmobile with a book capacity of fifteen hundred as compared to the five hundred limit of the panel truck. Visits to schools and centers were shortened from once every six weeks to once a month.

In 1965 the Semo Federated Service System was started with Riverside Regional Library, Cape Girardeau Public Library and the Mississippi County Library receiving a grant for books, materials, and a qualified coordinator for the system. Two years later a children's librarian was hired for the Semo System.

In 1966 a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill tax increase was voted for the library and from 1966 to 1970 the Charleston building was enlarged and a new building erected at East Prairie.

In September of 1970 a full time person was employed to train under the Semo children's librarian and many special activities for children were planned and carried out.

In 1972 the library circulated 71,385 books, 1,742 records, 2,585 pamphlets and magazines, 575 pictures, and 164 films.

Members of the library board in 1972 are: Mrs. Dorothy Moxley, President; Miss Mary F. Moore, Vice-President; Jim Bogle, George Roberts, and Mrs. Peggy McNeary.

Staff members are: Mrs. Betty Powell, Librarian; Mrs. Bettye Moreton, Ted Pierceall, Mrs. Sandra Hutcheson, Jo Ann Woodard, Idell Davis, Kaye Moreton, and Trudy Lindsey.

## Chapter XIII

### SECRET LODGES, CIVIC CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

There are certain organizations having somewhat dissimilar aims and purposes yet all of them fitted for public service in some way. There are also to be found in almost every community, organizations of the great secret, social, and philanthropic orders. Every profession and business has its organizations. All of them were active in advancing the interests of the communities and towns of Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

This information for Mississippi County is far from complete but does give some history of past and present organizations. The author is indebted to so many people for their help in supplying information it would be impossible to list them, but credit for much of this material goes to them. It is regrettable that for some organizations no history could be found, due in part to lack of time for further research. Undoubtedly some have been completely omitted but every effort was made to include as many as was possible.

#### PAST ORGANIZATIONS

##### *American Legion Gruner Post No. 215 (East Prairie)*

It was organized in October of 1919 with a membership of fifty-five ex-service men. Some time later an Auxiliary was organized.

##### *Beta Sigma Phi (Charleston)*

It is an international cultural, service and social sorority for young women. The Charleston chapter was organized in February of 1949 with the following officers: President, Mildred Steward; Vice-President, Emma Faye Moxley; Secretary, Stephanie Furdyn; Treasurer, Louise Blaylock.

##### *Birthday Club (Charleston)*

Its members were all women near seventy years of age who were classmates at the old Academy school. The club met twelve times each year and in the year 1919 had not lost a member. Members were: Mrs. Ella Crenshaw, Mrs. Mary Deal, Mrs. Anna Marshall, Mrs. Julia Rowe, Mrs. Aggie Drane, Mrs. Belle Russell, Mrs. Frank Russell, Mrs. Mollie Thompson, Miss Mattie O'Bryan, Mrs. Sue Kendall, Mrs. Katie Green and Mrs. Mollie Bondurant.

##### *Bridges Community Club*

This club had 110 members in 1922 and held a community fair in September of that year. The committee appointed to take charge of the fair consisted of: A. D. Simpson, S. P. Rowe, G. E. Cain, S. M. Shelby, Mrs. Everett Fox, H. T. Rowe, and Burt H. Rowe.

*Central Lodge No. 257, K of P (Charleston)*

The once mighty Knights of Pythias lodge reported 908,000 members in the United States and Canada in 1923, but it has declined for many reasons and continues its rapid decline today. A chapter was organized in Charleston in the early 1900's with W. E. Black as Chancellor Commander.

*Charleston Crack Military Co. (Charleston)*

It met on July 12, 1882, at Bethune's Hall for the purpose of effecting the business organization and electing company officers. The following were elected: President, E. W. Ogilvie; Secretary, Jacob C. Siegelman; Treasurer, G. H. Bridges; Captain, T. C. Watkins; 1st Lieutenant, G. H. Steinbraker; 2nd Lieutenant, G. S. Elliott; Orderly Sergeant, Gold Connelly; 1st Duty Sergeant, O. T. Guthrie; 2nd Duty Sergeant, M. E. Buckner; 3rd Duty Sergeant, J. K. Sigmon; 4th Duty Sergeant, Z. T. Sasseen; 1st Corporal, J. C. Siegleman; 2nd Corporal, G. W. Martin; 3rd Corporal, M. K. Browning; 4th Corporal, Charles DeLine. The company met again the following week and rented the hall one year for an Armory and appointed committees to draft by-laws, get up entertainments and take charge of the hall. The company drilled twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday nights. A later paper stated that the company failed to function for long.<sup>2</sup>

*Constantine Lodge No. 129 A.F. & A.M. (Charleston)*

It was organized in May 1851, and a few years later a chapter and council were instituted. Among the early members were George Whitcomb, F. A. Randol, J. M. Brown, C. C. Kalfus, J. H. Bethune, and A. E. Simpson. Whitcomb in 1862 was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. In 1875 the old charter was surrendered, and a new one obtained, under which an organization was effected on March 30, with the following officers: W. M., J. H. Bethune; S. W., A. E. Simpson; J. W., W. P. Swank; Secretary, J. M. Brown; Treasurer, James L. Moore.<sup>3</sup>

*Culture Club (Charleston)*

This group organized around 1910 for the purpose of holding educational meetings on topics connected with their trips to Europe and the culture available. The members were: Mrs. Scott Alexander, Miss Mabel Aydelotte, Miss Rose Barry, Mrs. J. L. Byrd, Miss Lillie Beckwith, Miss Allie Chambers, Miss Mary V. Clarke, Mrs. Henry Danforth, Mrs. D. L. Dick, Mrs. Jerry Deal, Miss Alice Goodin, Miss Myrtle Goodin, Mrs. O. F. Goodin, Mrs. Clara E. Graham, Mrs. T. J. Johns, Mrs. O. W. Joslyn, Mrs. Sonora Lindsay, Miss Nora Lindsay, Mrs. Will Mattingly, Mrs. J. J. Russell, Miss Effie Russell, Mrs. Frank Russell, Mrs. Clarke Russell and Miss Mabel Roberts.

*Daughters of the American Revolution (Charleston)*

The Charleston chapter was organized around 1912 and the charter members were: Miss Mary Anderson, Mrs. Lindsay Brown (Mollie Sikes), Miss Mary Virginia Clarke, Miss Lota





THE HOME CIRCLE of 1885 included: Front row, from left, Irene Bethune, Rose Rosenstein, Mattie Bridwell, Emma Moore and Hattie Siegelman; second row, Mrs. Lula Randolph, Gussie DeLine, Anna Roberts, Nettie Danforth, Ida Bridwell, Lela Stotts; back row, Minnie Beckwith, Mrs. Russell, Lillie Beckwith, Ella Swank, Mrs. Effie Randolph and Ollie Beckwith. (Treve Bethune is on left holding hat.)

Clarkson, Mrs. Charles Cooke (Kate Green), Mrs. Ed Crow (Cora Smith), Miss Grace D. Danforth, Mrs. Edward P. Deal (Mary Crenshaw), Mrs. E. Jerry Deal (Mattie Bridwell), Mrs. Mark A. Drane (Aggie Ogilvie), Mrs. Thomas J. Johns (Alice Hancock), Mrs. Sonora Lindsay (Sonora Walker), Miss Lucille Rodney Lindsay, Miss Nora Walker Lindsay, Mrs. Paul B. Moore (Margaret Stephens), Mrs. Garland Noland (Mable Drane), Mrs. Jackson L. Ogilvie (Georgia Clarkson), Mrs. Buckner Ragsdale (Nell Deal), and Mrs. H. L. Reid (Sue Byrd). The following were transfers from the Texarkana Chapter: Sue Moore Goodin, Ella G. Deal, and Myrtle G. Smith.

*Debating Society (Charleston)*

The group was organized in 1887 with H. C. O'Bryan as President and E. J. Deal as Secretary.

*Democratic Club (Charleston)*

It was organized June 26, 1916, with the following officers

elected: President, Fred Nunnelee; Vice-President, R. L. Shelby; Secretary, J. C. Boone; Assistant Secretary, Kiah Smith; and Treasurer, Clarence Johnson.

*Encampment No. 103* (Charleston)

It was organized on February 6, 1888, with the following officers: Chief Patriarch, J. A. Boone; Senior Warden, I. T. Clarkson; Junior Warden, H. C. O'Bryan; High Priest, D. Rusk; Scribe, F. B. Rice; and Treasurer, Benjamin Huff.<sup>4</sup>

*Ladies Altar Society of St. Henry's* (Charleston)

It was formed July 22, 1888, with 43 members. Mrs. Julia Klein served as President and Rosina Loebe as Secretary and Treasurer.

*Lodge No. 130* (Charleston)

It was chartered on May 15, 1879, with the following officers: P.M.W., Messer Ward; M.W., C.W. Hequembourg; F., H. H. Hancock; O., D. Rusk; Recorder, G. H. Bridges; Financier, W. A. Rush; Receiver, Solomon Rosenstein; G., David Black; I. W., F. G. Schuh; and O. W., J. C. Crenshaw.<sup>5</sup>

*Lodge No. 300 of Free Masons* (Bertrand)

In 1891 M. L. Greer was Worshipful Master.

*Lodge No. 514, I.O.O.F.* (East Prairie)

In 1905 B. B. Guthrie was elected as Secretary and W. H. Walters, N. G. In 1971 it went in with the Charleston Chapter No. 84.

*Matrons Music Club* (East Prairie)

It was organized in 1913 and by 1916 had nineteen members.

*Mississippi County Bar Association*

This organization is no longer active and the lawyers of the county are planning to form with Scott County Bar Association.

*Mississippi County Medical Association*

It was organized in 1903 with Drs. A. E. Simpson, J. M. Rowe, W. P. Howle, F. S. Vernon, and B. E. Finley of Charleston and G. R. Wallace of Bertrand, Dr. Story of Diehlstadt and Dr. P. P. Boggan of East Prairie.<sup>6</sup>

*Mississippi County Woman's Democratic Club*

It was organized in the spring of 1936 with a Mrs. Garland as the first president. The name was changed to the *Warren E. Hearnese Club* when Hearnese was elected as Secretary of State in 1961. The club has since become inactive.

*Mutual Aid Society of St. Henry's*

It was organized August 19, 1888, with 31 members and the following elected to office: President, Arnold L. Klein; Treasurer, John W. Rolwing; Secretary, B. A. Rolwing.

*National Farm Organization*

For a time Mississippi County had an active NFO. It is now inactive as a group but some may still belong to the National Organization.

*Parent-Teachers Association* (Charleston)

It was first organized March 17, 1922 with the following of-

ficers: President, J. M. Haw; Vice-President, C. L. Joslyn; Secretary, Mrs. John A. Bird; and Treasurer, H. S. Cochran. Later there were PTA groups at all of the Charleston schools but one by one the groups disbanded and there are none in Charleston at the present time.

*Provident Association (Charleston)*

It was organized around 1914 to help care for the needy of the city and to aid people who could work in obtaining employment. A. S. Hulit was president in 1916 and 1917.

*Reform Club (Charleston)*

The members in 1879 were: G. W. Kenrick, Abbie Watts, Mollie Ward, R. C. Danforth, Annie Lynn, Ida Siegleman, Joseph Loebe, Emma Dermon, J. E. Golder, Iva Patterson, Aura Stratton, and Emma Moore.

*Rotary Club (Charleston)*

It received its charter on February 14, 1955, with Rev. A. B. Cooper as the first president. It is no longer an active club.

*Rotary Club (East Prairie)*

For a time there was a Rotary Club at East Prairie and its main objective was to aid crippled children. It is no longer active.

*Southeast Missouri Press Association*

It was organized December 23, 1892, at a meeting in Charleston.<sup>7</sup>

*Twentieth Century Study Club (Charleston)*

It was organized in 1962. In 1969 the club held a Christmas Home Tour which became an annual event until the club disbanded in March of 1973. Past presidents are: Miss Glenda Heckert, Mrs. Floyd Stallings, Mrs. William Owens, Mrs. Press Berry, Jr., Mrs. Jerry Galemore, Mrs. Charles Jordan, Mrs. Albert V. Goodin, Mrs. David Barnett, and Mrs. Lowell Nicholas.

*Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 7053 (East Prairie)*

The East Prairie post was organized April 5, 1946 with the following officers elected: Commander, Phonzie W. Brown; Senior Vice-Commander, \_\_\_\_\_ Logan; Junior Vice-Commander, Paul Bush; Quartermaster, Riley Presson; Chaplain, Earl Wamble; Adjutant, Weldon Watson; Post Advocate, Gail Watson; Surgeon, James Scott; Officer of the Day, \_\_\_\_\_ Barker; Patriotic Instructor, Robert Hunter; Legislator, L. B. Presson and with Trustees, \_\_\_\_\_ Barker, Dick Ward, J. C. Cowser. Some time later a building was purchased but the post disbanded in late 1972 or early 1973.

*Wolf Island Lodge No. 172 of Free Masons*

This chapter was organized some time before 1859 but no records could be found.

*Woman's Christian Temperance Union (East Prairie)*

It was organized March 10, 1923, with thirty-eight active and two honorary members. Officers were: President, Mrs. Ora

Scott; Secretary, Mrs. Ray Millar; Treasurer, Mrs. Ada Oliver.  
*Woodmen of the World (Charleston Grove Camp, No. 187)*

In recent years the Woodmen of the World has become simply a life insurance society and has been largely supplanted by Modern Woodmen of America. At one time there were camps in Charleston, East Prairie, and other places in the county.

### PRESENT ORGANIZATIONS

*A. F. & A. M. Lodge No. 407 (Charleston)*

This organization received its charter October 12, 1893, with Judge James A. Boone as Worshipful Master. The Masonic Lodge bought its present building from the Methodist Church in 1905, but it was constructed in 1870. It was converted into the present Masonic Temple, which serves the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, Order of Eastern Star and Order of Job's Daughters.<sup>8</sup>

*A. F. & A. M. Lodge No. 384 (East Prairie)*

It was chartered September 29, 1904 with C. D. Mitchell as Worshipful Master, R. W. Nelson, Senior Warden and R. A. Doyle, Junior Warden.

*American Legion Mattingly Post 232 (Charleston)*

It was organized January 19, 1920 with Dr. C. C. Presnell as the first charter member and a total of 125 members. Officers were: Post Commander, Wallace Hendricks; Vice Post Commander, C. C. Courtney; Adjutant, Byron B. Guthrie; Finance Officer, Roy Gutzwiler; Chaplain, John O'Reilly.

*American Legion Auxiliary (Charleston)*

Soon after the American Legion was formed an Auxiliary was organized but later gave up its charter. Some years later a second group was organized and still meets once a month.

*Athena Club (Charleston)*

This club was organized May 21, 1935, by the Woman's Study Club with the following charter members: Mrs. Doss Lee, Mrs. Clark C. Moxley, Mrs. Hartrel Brock, Mrs. Brack Hinchey, Miss Mary Sue Ragsdale, Miss Louise Williams, Miss Alberta Haw, Miss Martha Hequembourg and L. Park. All members presented suggestions for a name for the club and "Athena Club" suggested by Martha Hequembourg was selected.

*Auxiliary Police (Charleston)*

It was organized in the early part of 1958 under the state Civil Defense with seventeen applications received. Jake Hodges was named temporary secretary and Lonnie Carter and Henry Ohmes first and second commanders of the temporary organization. The following fifteen men were accepted and sworn in on April 21 by Tom Zilafro, city clerk: Beck Brown, John Hodges, R. S. Webster, Lonnie Carter, John Skelton, Jr., Raymond Lee Marshall, Jack L. Hurt, Bill Brantley, Rex Davidson, James Cates, Henry Ohmes, Boyd Duff, O. D. Harper, and Dee E. Bonner. John Skelton, Jr. served as commander for fourteen



years. The Auxiliary Police served an important function during those years when the city and county police systems were understaffed. Today six men remain on the force and are under the direction of Police Chief, Bob Richey. They are: Ronny Graham, Ken Stevenson, Bob Davis, Claude Grant, Jack Halen, and Don Poley.

#### *Auxiliary Wives (Charleston)*

This club is composed of the wives of Charleston policemen, firemen, auxiliary police, and state troopers. It was organized in 1967 with Virginia McKenzie as the first president. Their main interests have been helping retarded children and the elderly. They also help with civic events such as the Dogwood-Azalea Tour, Clean-up Campaign, etc. This club was the first in Charleston to set up road blocks to solicit donations for the Telethon to aid crippled children.

#### *Big Lake Hunting Club*

It was organized December 13, 1937, as a club with the first officers being: President, L. A. Simpson; Vice-President, Walter Beck; Secretary-Treasurer, T. J. Brown, Jr. and Chairman, L. D. Joslyn. In December of 1937 the club purchased from Charles A. Goodin the property known as Big Lake, about two miles north of Charleston. For several years prior to 1937 the club had leased such premises for hunting and fishing with an option to purchase. It was this option which was exercised in 1937.

The purpose of the club was to provide hunting and fishing for its members and the club premises were made available for public fishing. Further, it was intended that the club premises would be so operated as to attract wild life to this area.

Primarily the reason for purchase of the premises, some 600 acres, was to retain the ownership by local citizens. At the time of purchase Charles A. Goodin had received an offer to sell to other than local people and it was concluded a great number of Mississippi countians would be deprived of the use of Big Lake.

Charter members were: L. A. Simpson, T. J. Brown, Jr., Walter Beck, L. D. Joslyn, Harold Lovelace, Robert Burns, Glen Ault, Sr., Charles A. Goodin, H. G. Simpson, Thad Snow, Willis Chapman, Lon Stader, O. T. Dalton, William A. Steele and H. D. Ficklin.

#### *Boy Scouts*

They were organized in Mississippi County in 1910. The first Charleston Boy Scout troop was started in 1911 by Frank See, then a young attorney. Four patrols were organized and were as follows: Bob White Patrol - Harmon Deal, Leader; Bryan Schuh, Ralph Loebe, Russell Wilkinson, Crawford Edwards, Otis Joslyn, Walter Henry. Eagle Patrol - Lester Miller, Leader; Robert Thogmorton, Gordon Dick, Moffat Latimer, Raymond Roberts. Cyclone Patrol - Allen Mattingly, Leader; Russell Deal, Gilbert Hill, Marian Brown, Jack Wilkinson, Maybee Hibbitts, Eugene Jordan. Swamp Angel Patrol - Tom Russell, Leader;

Lannis Ogilvie, Paul Davis, Eddie Nosal, Joe Patterson, Sid Finley, Gunter Simpson. Frank See continued as Scoutmaster until he moved from Charleston, a period of eight or nine years. For some time after he left the troop was inactive.

Around 1924 E. H. Smith became Scoutmaster, assisted by Rev. Smith, pastor of the Presbyterian Church. At this time Charleston was a part of the Mississippi-Cape-Scott Council. In 1926 the Kiwanis Club took over the sponsorship of the troop and Moray Gaty became Scoutmaster.

On December 22, 1930, Eagle badges were awarded to the first four Eagle Scouts in the county: Wilbur Davis, Sam Cox Goodin, Billy Oliver and Charles L. Kirk.

The troop continued under various sponsorships until 1935. In 1930 Charleston, Sikeston, Poplar Bluff, and Cape Girardeau organized the Southeast Missouri Area Council which in 1937 included fourteen counties. The Charleston District of the Council was organized in 1930 with George W. Kirk as chairman. Camp Lewallen, in Wayne County, was named in honor of the father of a former Mississippi County resident, Fred Lewallen. The Lions Club at East Prairie has for several years had scouting for one of its major activities. Anniston, under the leadership of Fred Lewallen, in 1937 had a Cub Pack and a Scout Troop under Ben Poe and Howard Connors.

The first Cub Scout troop was organized in 1932. In 1972 there are four Boy Scout troops in Charleston and ten Girl Scout troops. In East Prairie there are five Boy Scout troops and seven Girl Scout troops.

#### *Brewer Lake Angling and Outing Club*

The club was formed in 1904 and by-laws adopted August 4, 1904. The first officers were: Charles R. Love, President; Dr. J. B. Penny, Vice-President; Bert H. Drane, Secretary; Joe L. Jecko, Treasurer; and the board of trustees: R. L. Heggie, J. F. Travis, M. A. Drand, Joe L. Jecko and Charles R. Love. F. W. Tyler leased to the club for a period of ten years land situated on the bank of Brewer Lake, on which to erect a club house. In 1919 the same tract of land was purchased by the club with J. L. Jecko, Edgar F. Swank and John L. Simpson as trustees. In 1949 the original trustees were all deceased and Tom J. Brown, Jr., A. J. Drinkwater, Jr. and Art L. Wallhausen were appointed by the Circuit Court to succeed them. The original members of the club were: John F. Martin, Scott Alexander, Thomas M. Ogilvie, Bert H. Drane, Charles Hainley, Frank D. Lair, Joseph A. Howlett, Dr. J. H. White, Elbert Shelby, James F. Travis, George Vanlear, Mark A. Drane, Dr. J. B. Penny, L. D. Steele, Charles I. Lutz, William E. Black, T. T. Newlee, John C. Bon-durant, Robert L. Heggie, T. J. Clack, E. E. Kirkpatrick, H. R. Winn, John P. Heggie, Fred Ogilvie, Charles R. Love, Hardy Pottinger, William G. Lee, W. C. Russell, O. W. Joslyn, Joe L. Jecko. Honorary members were E. W. Ogilvie, F. W. Tyler, and

F. M. Priest. (Information supplied by Prince Moxley.)  
*Building and Loan Association* (Charleston)

It was organized in July of 1891, and as a result of its benefits twenty new residences were built. E. W. Ogilvie was President and E. J. Deal, Secretary.

*Business and Professional Women's Club* (Charleston)

This had been a local club for more than seventeen years and in January, 1947, with a membership of thirty, they became interested in affiliation with the Missouri Federation. Their charter was presented in March 1947, by Lillian Sagorske, State President.

For many years the Club had as its important community interest the maintenance of a city library. A formal opening for the Charleston Public Library was held May 10, 1935, and at the time of opening had approximately 2500 books. In 1949 the Club donated all of its books to the newly organized Mississippi County Library Board. Another outstanding project for several years was a "loan closet", consisting of medical and hospital supplies such as wheel chairs, crutches, beds, etc. which were kept in use continually.

In 1950 the Club sponsored the organization of the Sikeston Club, and in 1953 organized the Wyatt B.P.W. Club, the 100th Federated Club of Missouri. In 1950 Dr. Alouise Carter Fenton was president of District VI. Mildred R. Smith served as District Director in 1952-53. Mrs. Maegerie Ballinger was State Health and Safety Chairman in 1955-56. Mrs. Dorothy W. Putnam was District VI Director serving for a two-year term, 1971-72 and 1972-73.

Charleston B.P.W. Club was host to District VI Annual Fall Conference October 27, 1968, in the new R-1 High School Commons, with 112 guests registered for the luncheon. Mrs. Reitha McCracken of Seneca, Missouri, State President, Mrs. Warren E. Hearnese, wife of Governor Hearnese, of Jefferson City, and Mrs. Frances Humphrey Howard, sister of Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, were guest speakers.

July 19th to 23rd, 1970, five members from the Charleston Club attended the National Convention held in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended the Missouri Luncheon at Royal Hawaiian Village.

Beginning in 1966, in October each year, the Club sponsors a "Woman of the Year" banquet which is held at the Charleston Armory and served by the National Guard. The event is said by many to be "the nicest affair held in Charleston each year".  
*First Annual Woman of the Year Banquet*, sponsored by the Club (1966-67)

Held at Charleston Armory, October 20, 1966 - 7 P.M.

Mrs. Harry Warren, Jr. (Julia) Woman of the Year

Mrs. Warren E. Hearnese (Betty, wife of Governor of Missouri), Honorary Woman

*Second Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 12, 1967*  
(1967-1968)

Mrs. Joe Ellis, Jr. (Loisell) Woman of the Year

No Honorary Woman chosen

*Third Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 17, 1968*  
(1968-1969)

Mrs. Manford Cox (Lucille) Woman of the Year

Mrs. Oma (W. C.) Brewer, Honorary Woman of the Year

*Fourth Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 9, 1969*  
(1969-1970)

Mrs. Floyd Stallings (Marilyn) Woman of the Year

Mrs. Emmett Burke, Honorary Woman of the Year

*Fifth Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 8, 1970*  
(1970-1971)

Mrs. Marshall Currin (Helen) Woman of the Year

Mrs. Claudia Pate, Honorary Woman of the Year

*Sixth Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 14, 1971*  
(1971-1972)

Mrs. Ray Hillhouse (Nelsene) Woman of the Year

Mrs. D. J. Gallagher, Honorary Woman of the Year

*Seventh Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 12, 1972*  
(1972-1973)

Miss Ruth Ellen "Jake" Heggie Woman of the Year

Mrs. Norbert Rolwing (Carmelita), Honorary Woman of the Year

*Eighth Annual Woman of the Year Banquet, October 18, 1973*  
(1973-1974)

Mrs. Art Wallhausen (Millie) Woman of the Year

Mrs. Fred Smith (Mildred), Honorary Woman of the Year

(Information supplied by Annie Cain.)

*Business & Professional Women's Club (East Prairie)*

This club was organized March 1971 with the following officers: President, Jo Ann Woodard; Vice-President, Lucille Gregory; Recording Secretary, Betty Riggs; Corresponding Secretary, Addie Sims, and Treasurer, Mabel Fussell.

*Cattlemen's Association*

At one time several farmers in the county with registered pure-bred herds organized a Mississippi County Chapter. They no longer are active, but around fifteen to twenty cattlemen still belong to the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

*Chamber of Commerce (Charleston)*

A Commercial Club in Charleston was organized at an early date but interest waned until it finally failed to function. Then in 1903 it was revived and reorganized with the following officers elected: William Holloway, President; A. E. Harris, Vice-President; Frank Russell, Secretary; Miles Howlett, Treasurer. It was never too active, but in 1910 it was again organized with George C. Burns as President. It continued for several years but was never very strong. On March 8, 1912, it was reorganized with



A. S. Hulit as President and in 1919 the business men organized the *Business Men's League* with W. B. Ragsdale as President. It continued until August 4, 1925 when it was reorganized as the Chamber of Commerce with E. J. Deal, Jr. as President. A later Chamber of Commerce with 114 members was organized and approved by a board on November 19, 1958 with the following officers: Paul Handy Moore, President; J. D. Ellis, Vice-President; W. P. Webster, Second Vice-President; July Shelby, Treasurer; C. C. Courtway, Manager. It is an active organization in 1972 which is supported by membership dues, donations and prize money the chamber won for its Community Betterment projects. An annual banquet is held and the Chamber sponsors the annual Dogwood-Azalea Festival which originated with the Molly French Garden Club, but is financed by the Chamber of Commerce. An office is maintained at 108 East Commercial with a secretary on duty daily.

In 1968 the Chamber of Commerce instigated the organization of a Community Betterment Committee made up of delegates from various clubs and organizations in Charleston. In 1970, Charleston won second place for community betterment in Missouri, and in 1971 took first place in the five to ten thousand class.

#### *Chamber of Commerce (East Prairie)*

A Commercial Club was organized in 1906. It became inactive and another Commercial Club was organized February 5, 1912, with the following officers elected: Elgin C. Davis, President; W. W. Bledsoe, Vice-President; David Bright, Secretary; W. H. Grissom, Treasurer, and with ten members. Interest waned, but it was again organized on January 2, 1917, with the following officers elected: C. D. Mitchell, President; F. S. Goodin, Vice-President; J. R. Presson, Second Vice-President; W. W. Bledsoe, 3rd Vice-President; David Bright, 4th Vice-President; John Fletcher, Secretary; W. P. Wilkinson, Treasurer.

Today East Prairie has a *Chamber of Commerce* with around fifty members. Barney Webster is President and Lloyd Hogan, Secretary. The East Prairie Community Betterment Committee was organized in 1968 and was awarded first place in Missouri for 1972 in the one to five thousand class. They were also presented with a trophy for their work with the youth of the community.

#### *Charleston Country Club*

It was organized April 28, 1925 with nine charter members: E. J. Deal, Jr., George U. Shelby, Sr., J. C. McDowell, George W. Kirk, H. H. Jordan, H. H. Cornwall, G. E. Stoner, J. E. Downs, and J. Lanier Byrd. The club bought around thirty acres of the Beckwith farm and set their goal at forty members. A five-hole golf course was laid out and soon increased to a nine-hole course. Tennis and croquet courts were also planned.<sup>9</sup>

Lucille Downs was the first woman to play golf at the Country Club. Gradually other women took up the game and eventually the Ladies Golf Association was organized and now has twenty-six members.

For many years the only clubhouse was an old frame building which was moved and a screened in porch added. Later a new brick building and swimming pool were added. Today the Country Club has a membership of 150 men and women.

*Classroom Teacher's Association* (Charleston R-1 District)

In 1966 the name was changed statewide to *Community Teachers Association* and a new constitution adopted to include administrators as well as teachers so they could cooperate in promoting and establishing high standards of professional ethics, ideals, and loyalty. The first officers of the new organization were: President, Bill Wills; Vice-President, \_\_\_\_\_; Secretary, Mary Doris Zoellner; Treasurer, Pauline Murphy. In 1972 a \$250 Warren E. Hearnese scholarship fund was established by the organization.

*Classroom Teacher's Association* (East Prairie R-2 District)

The present group was organized September 16, 1954 with 25 members. The following officers were elected: President, Mary F. Moore, Secretary-Treasurer, Earl Williams; Reporter, Agnes Conner. In 1957 the group changed its name to *Community Teacher's Association*.

*Commercial Club* (Charleston)

This club was reorganized in 1919 and changed its name to *Business Men's League* with the following officers elected: President, W. B. Ragsdale; Vice-President, T. J. Brown; Secretary-Treasurer, R. B. Gillaly.

*Council of Catholic Youth* (Charleston)

The C.Y.C. has been active in the parish since 1930. Its purpose is the spiritual, cultural and recreational development of the youth.

*Daughter's of Isabelle* (Charleston)

The charter for the Ave Maria Circle was issued on July 15, 1951. They have held their meetings in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The first Regent of the Circle was Sylvia Seib.

*Demolay — C. D. Mitchell Chapter*

It enrolls boys between the ages of thirteen and twenty-one. Each chapter must be sponsored and supervised by a recognized Masonic organization. The local chapter had around twenty-six boys from Mississippi County at the time it was organized.

*Eastern Star Chapter No. 122 O.E.S.* (Charleston)

Sometime in the early part of the year 1907 a small group of Masons and/or affiliated prospective members of the Charleston area had thoughts of formulating the Order of the Eastern Star, which is the largest fraternal organization to which both men and women are privileged to belong. Thus on September 7, 1907 the Charleston Chapter No. 122 was instituted and constituted.

The charter was received on September 27, 1907 with the following as Charter members: Mrs. Ira Bird, Miss Kate Boone, A. R. Boone, Mrs. James A. Boone, Henry Finley, Mrs. Martha Finley, Mrs. Florence Goodin, Mrs. Betty Hogen, Mrs. Anna Hearst, C. F. Hearst, Edward Johnson, Mrs. Josephine Johnson, O. W. Joslyn, Mrs. Gussie Joslyn, Mrs. Pearl Kline, Mrs. Amma Marshall, W. T. Marshall, Mrs. Florence Martin, Mrs. Gertrude Mitchell, Mrs. Betty Rosenstein, Miss Eda Rosenstein, Mrs. Belle Russell, Mrs. Inez Wilkerson, Mrs. Saphronico Yound, and John Yound. The following have attained the honor as serving as Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons. The first serving in 1907 as Worthy Matron, Mrs. Josephine Johnson and as Worthy Patron, O. W. Josslyn.

1908	Mrs. Josephine Johnson	A. R. Boone
1909	Miss Kate Boone	Henry Finley
1910	Miss Kate Boone	A. D. Simpson
1911	Mrs. Annie Wilkinson	J. C. Boone
1912	Mrs. Amma Marshall	J. C. Boone
1913	Mrs. Margaret Danforth	J. C. Boone
1914	Mrs. Margaret Danforth	J. C. Boone
1915	Mrs. Charlot Boone	Henry Brasher
1916	Mrs. Mary Salmon	J. C. Boone
1917	Mrs. Bettie Hagan	Dr. H. H. Cornwall
1918	Mrs. Nannie Davis	Dr. H. H. Cornwall
1919	Mrs. Emma Cornwall	W. I. Sidwell
1920	Mrs. Mattie Simpson	B. R. Green
1921	Mrs. Lillian Jenks	Frank Sterett
1922	Mrs. Alice Lee	J. B. Simpson
1923	Mrs. Carolyn McDowell	C. L. Joslyn
1924	Mrs. Nell Oliver	R. L. Fowlkes
1925	Mrs. Eda Hulit	C. L. Joslyn
1926	Mrs. Inez Joslyn	Dr. H. H. Cornwall
1927	Mrs. Asenath Sterett	John P. Heggie
1928	Mrs. Della Fowlkes	John P. Heggie
1929	Mrs. Elgia Clack	Donnell Bird
1930	Mrs. Inez Pemberton	T. J. Clack
1931	Mrs. Lillian Heggie	R. L. Fowlkes
1932	Mrs. Josephine Fox	Donnell Bird
1933	Mrs. Gertrude Bird	Donnell Bird
1934	Miss Ella Bush Oliver	Donnell Bird
1935	Mrs. Della Fowlkes	John P. Heggie
1936	Mrs. Rubye Thompson	R. L. Fowlkes
1937	Mrs. Winnifred Greer	R. L. Fowlkes
1938	Mrs. Florence Fennimore	L. A. Simpson
1939	Mrs. Cleo Estes	L. A. Simpson
1940	Miss Ella Jane Prier	George A. Stebbins
1941	Mrs. Opal O'Rourke	L. A. Simpson

1942	Mrs. Susie Byrne	L. A. Simpson
1943	Mrs. Edna Gwaltney	L. A. Simpson
1944	Mrs. Grace Townsend	L. A. Simpson
1945	Mrs. Florentine Prosser	L. A. Simpson
1946	Mrs. Vera Simpson	L. A. Simpson
1947	Mrs. Emma Guthrie	Byron Guthrie
1948	Mrs. Lucille Downs	Jesse Downs
1949	Mrs. Pat Herring	Jesse Downs
1950	Mrs. Tillie McPheeters	Jesse Downs
1951	Mrs. Mabel Morris	E. Ralph Williams
1952	Mrs. Edna Swank	E. Ralph Williams
1953	Mrs. Louretta Giltz	E. Ralph Williams
1954	Mrs. Clyda Sanders	L. A. Simpson
1955	Mrs. Myrtle Nunnelee	John Nunnelee
1956	Mrs. Lois Hurley	Goff A. Bonifield
1957	Mrs. Rose Bonifield	Goff A. Bonifield
1958	Mrs. Alma Galemore	S. B. Hinchey
1959	Mrs. Connie Michael	Max Michael
1960	Mrs. Geneva Finley	J. B. Galemore
1961	Mrs. Lucille Downs	E. Ralph Williams
1962	Mrs. Alma Galemore	J. B. Galemore
1963	Mrs. Juanite Cherry	Charles L. Morris
1964	Mrs. Faye Elliott	Dewey J. Pry
1965	Mrs. Peggy Pry	Dewey J. Pry
1966	Mrs. Ola Stanfill	Charles L. Morris
1967	Mrs. Dorothy Howard	Charles L. Morris
1968	Mrs. Loretta Smith	Kiah Smith, Jr.
1969	Mrs. Margie Miller	George Miller
1970	Mrs. Barbara Chapman	Jack Chapman
1971	Mrs. Ruth Adkisson	Paul Adkisson
1972	Mrs. Shirley Allen	Ralph Adkisson
1973	Mrs. Juanita McCloskey	Charles McCloskey

By faithful attendance and continued service by the members the Chapter has continued to grow. In 1964 the East Prairie Chapter affiliated with the Charleston Chapter, an increase of about 100 members.

Among those that have brought honor to the Chapter were Nell Oliver, Emma Cornwall and Lucille Downs serving as District Deputy Grand Matrons. Connie Michael served as District Deputy Grand Matron in 1969, Grand Representative of Kentucky in 1970-71 and as Grand Ruth of the Grand Chapter of Missouri on 1972. Several members have received 50 year pins.

At this writing the Chapter is enjoying a very active year under the leadership of Bertie Staples as Worthy Matron and Johnnie Shoffner as Worthy Patron with the following officers: A.M., Wanda Shoffner; A. P., Jeff Shoffner; Secretary, Mildred Keene; Treasurer, Barbara Chapman; Cond. Sue Treadway; A. Cond. Ruth Sturgeon; Chaplain, Lois Hurley; Marsh. Juanita McCloskey; Organist, Kathy Cates; Adah. Dorothy Howard;



Ruth, Connie Michael; Esther, Louise McIntyre; Martha, Loretta Smith; Electa, Hattie Shoffner; Warder, Mary Anderson, and Sent. Louise Chapman. (Information supplied by Connie Michael).

#### *4-H Clubs*

In 1921 the Bred Gilt Club Project was organized with thirty-one members to encourage production of more and better hogs in the county and to disseminate knowledge of better methods of feeding and management among boys and girls of school age. The money for the purchase of the gilts was loaned by the various banks in the county. Thirteen entries were made on the day of the show, November 4, 1922, with prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10 awarded. In the years of 1923 and 1924 no pure bred gilts were found and the project was abandoned.

By August, 1925, five boys and girls clubs with sixty-seven members were active. Two of them, the Hurricane and Bridges were cotton clubs. In 1924 a girl's garment club was organized in the Anniston community under the leadership of Mrs. A. P. Dalton. The Bridges community sponsored the formation of two girl's garment making clubs in 1924.

In 1928 an effort was made to enroll members in garment making, health and first aid, pig and poultry clubs. Club leaders were secured, but because of the transient nature of a large percentage of the club members, few projects were finished. Only one garment making club, located at Wyatt under the leadership of Mrs. Clara E. Graham, completed their work and held an achievement day program.

In later years 4-H clubs changed in concept and areas of interest. In addition to the usual projects leaders are now giving help in career development, financial aids to college bound students, drug awareness and in increased program on first aid. Help is also being given to young people who are not 4-H members but who have organized the Little Green Thumb Garden Program.

Today there are twenty-six clubs with a total enrollment of 889 boys and girls. The program is under the direction of William D. Purnell, Area Youth Specialist; Margaret Halter, Youth Assistant; Marilyn Williams, Youth Assistant; and Robert E. Taylor, Youth Agent for Mississippi and New Madrid counties.

Many 4-H leaders have given of their time over the years, but Mrs. J. J. Reeves was presented with a pin in 1972 for forty-one years of service as a leader in appreciation for an outstanding contribution to the program of 4-H leadership.

#### *Girl Scouts*

The Cotton Boll Council Girl Scout organization was chartered in 1948. Charleston was one of the five towns to form the council. The other four towns were Sikeston, Kennett, Poplar Bluff, and Caruthersville.

Mrs. H. D. Ficklin was a charter member of the council and Mr. Ficklin was a member of the first camp committee formed to select a site and establish our Girls Scout Camp, Camp Latonka, located on Lake Wappappello near Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Mr. Ficklin later served as one of the early council treasurers.

Mrs. Clifton Banta, Sr. was the first committee chairman in Charleston or Neighborhood Chairman as we call it now. Mr. Banta was also active in the early years of girl scouting in Charleston.

Miss Bertha Scott was the first scout leader in Charleston and was largely responsible for Charleston being one of the towns to help form the council.

Miss Ilena Aslin, our Scout Council Executive, joined the Council in 1951 and Miss Doris Brown, our camp director, in 1956.

Some of the first leaders in Charleston during the early fifties were Mrs. Glenn Ault, Mrs. Paul Handy Moore, Mrs. Harry Warren, Jr., Mrs. W. H. Thompson, and Mrs. Joe Ellis, Jr. Mrs. Woodrow Simmons served as one of our early Neighborhood Chairman.

The Scout Cabin located on the southeast corner of the E. Charles Rolwing Park, was built in 1949 through donations of the people of Charleston. (Information supplied by Mrs. Joe Ellis).  
*I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 84 (Charleston)*

This was organized under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge, by Deputy Grand Master, J. F. Shiefer, on March 28, 1855. W. W. Campbell, J. S. Goodin and B. C. Adams were initiated into the order, and the following officers chosen: J. P. Bridwell, N. G.; J. C. Thomas, V. G. ; W. W. Campbell, Treasurer; J. S. Goodin, Secretary; R. Stovall, Warden; B. C. Adams, I. G. The lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge on May 17, 1855, and continued to work until January, 1861, when it was suspended. During that time the following persons filled the office of Noble Grand: J. C. Thomas, A. M. Bedford, J. S. Goodin, Samuel Keith, David Swank, J. L. Shelby, J. C. Rice, B. C. Adams, J. H. Bethune, and L. Rosenberg. On January 27, 1872, seven of the old members met and effected a reorganization with B. C. Adams as N. G.; G. Crenshaw, V. G.; L. F. Danforth, Treasurer, and J. L. Shelby, Secretary. The other three members were J. H. Bethune, J. C. Crenshaw, and T. H. Bryant. In 1888 it had a membership of eighty-two. On January 24, 1885, it was incorporated by the legislature.<sup>10</sup>

#### *Job's Daughters*

Girls between the ages of thirteen and twenty who are related to Master Masons may apply for membership. They must possess a good moral character, believe in God, in the Ten Commandments and in the Lord's Prayer. The local chapter was organized in January of 1970 and received their charter six months later. Thirty girls were accepted for membership and the

following selected for officers: Honored Queen of Bethel UD, Sandra Barnhill; Senior Princess, Amy Johnson; Junior Princess, Mary Jo Barnhill; Bethel Guardian, Ruth Adkisson; Associate Bethel Guardian, Charles McCloskey; Recorder, Marcelea Allen; Secretary, Carolyn Johnson; Treasurer, Juanita McCloskey; Musician, Alberta Bishop; Junior Custodian, Sharon Adkisson.

*Junior Chamber of Commerce "Jaycees" (Charleston)*

It was organized February 19, 1936 with the following of officers chosen: President, Marshall Craig; Vice-President, Ellis W. Howlett; Secretary, Doss B. Lee, Treasurer, Lex May.

Much later the Jaycees built a stock car racing track east of Charleston and sponsored races. The Jaycee wives were active in sending packages to soldiers stationed in Vietnam.

*Junior Chamber of Commerce "Jaycees" (East Prairie)*

There was an earlier "Jaycee" organization which became inactive. They were again chartered in 1974 with around twenty-five members and Kenneth Boyd as President.

*Junior Civic Club (East Prairie)*

The club was organized January 10, 1951, and the first officers were: President, Mrs. Billie Adkisson; Vice-President, Mrs. Bill Reeves; Secretary, Suzanne Lindley; Treasurer, Mrs. Guy Woodard; Chaplain, Nell Brooks; Reporter, Helen Shelby; Parliamentarian, Emma Lou Felts. The organization sponsors the Girls Scouts, gives community help and in 1973 started a Welcome Neighbor Program with gifts donated by local merchants. (Information supplied by Mrs. Bill Bryant.)

*Junior Study Club (Charleston)*

The club was organized September 1, 1947, at the home of Mrs. William P. Wright, Jr. The club chose the pansy as the club flower and selected the colors green and white. The motto adopted reads: Work right, think right, do right, be right. In 1949 the club started a drive to raise \$5,000 with which to erect a scout cabin at the City Park.<sup>11</sup>

*Kiwanis Club (Charleston)*

It was temporarily organized February 13, 1922, until fifty chapter members could be obtained and with C. L. Joslyn as temporary president and H. H. Jordan, temporary secretary. On May 4, 1926, it was formally organized with 35 members. C. L. Joslyn, President; Buckner Ragsdale, Vice-President; and George U. Shelby, Treasurer.<sup>12</sup>

*Kiwanis Club (East Prairie)*

This club was organized July 8, 1954, with the following of officers elected: President, Joe Watson; Vice-President, Kenneth Walker; Secretary, Melvin White; Treasurer, Edward Falkoff. Directors were: Clayton Allstun, Jack Barnhill, Alex Cantrell, Jones Hedge, James Hodges, and Sherrel Presson.

*Knights of Columbus, Council 3282 (Charleston)*

It was organized in 1950 with Tom Bennett as the first

Grand Knight of the Council. The first meetings were held above the old Ben Stricker Implement Company garage, but almost immediately the Council began to plan for a permanent hall, which was built on South Sixth Street, and where meetings and social events continue to be held. In 1972 it has 116 members. *Legal Secretaries Association* (Cape Girardeau-Mississippi-Scott Counties)

The first meeting was held November 18, 1967, and the first officers were installed on November 30, 1967, at Sikeston with the following officers elected: President, Barbara Drusch, Cape Girardeau; Vice-President, Ida Phillips, Charleston; Secretary, Evelyn Black, Sikeston; Treasurer, Mary Hayes, Charleston; Governor, Thelma Bess, Charleston; and National Representative, Mary Frances LeGrand, Sikeston. Charter members were: Thelma Bess, Janie Beaird, Evelyn Black, Carol Couvion, Barbara Drusch, Jackie Givens, Georgia Neal, Ida Phillips, Mary Frances LeGrand, Jean Tullis, Mary Hayes, and Betty Heacox.

#### *Lion's Club* (Bertrand)

It was organized August 24, 1971, and chartered November 20, 1971, with around sixteen members. The first officers were: President, Franklin M. Sligar; Secretary, Ted Martin; Treasurer, C. C. Cunningham. Today they have around forty-two members and members at large.

#### *Lion's Club* (Charleston)

It was organized on March 2, 1942, with the following officers: Dr. J. M. Cullison, Jr., President; J. M. Wallace, Secretary; Richard Saliba, Treasurer; Albert Goodin, First Vice-President; Dick Berry, Lion-Tamer; and Charlie Goodin, Tailtwister. A board of directors included: Dr. E. Charles Rolwing, Marshall Craig, Grinstead Brewer, and Ellis Howlett.<sup>13</sup> The club held its first annual Horse Show in 1954 and continued with them for several years, but interest waned and they were discontinued.

#### *Lion's Club* (East Prairie)

The club was organized November 12, 1926, and the first officers to be elected were: President, H. S. Roberts; First Vice-President, U. A. Swingle; Second Vice-President, J. H. Nelson; Third Vice-President, H. B. Ward; Secretary and Treasurer, W. W. Bledsoe; Tailtwister, E. C. Davis; Den Keeper, W. D. Cain. The directors were: W. R. Hollick, R. A. Doyle, George W. Whitaker, and I. J. Falkoff. Other members were: E. V. Phillips, M. M. Kelly, H. A. Brown, F. R. McCall, John Fletcher, J. P. Doyle, J. A. McNeill and S. P. Martin.

#### *Lion's Club* (Wyatt)

The club's charter is dated December 14, 1971. The first officers were: President, Clifton Brumley; Secretary, James B. Small, Jr.; Treasurer, Eugene Gibson.



### *Mississippi County Extension Clubs*

March of 1923 marked the beginning of Home Economics work in Mississippi County with state specialists giving demonstrations in four communities.

In early 1934 the first Women's Home Economics Extension Club was organized in the Dogwood Community. Mrs. E. T. Moon, East Prairie, was President. The club sponsored an outstanding project of typhoid and diphtheria immunization.

Miss Ruth E. Lantz was the first Home Demonstration Agent in 1936. She divided her time between three counties. In 1937 Mary L. Summers began work as the first full-time agent.

First mention of a County Council was made in 1936.

Work with Negro clubs is reported in 1937. "A rugmaking demonstration was given for the colored women's council and the H. D. A. will assist the colored agent with a mattress demonstration the latter part of November." In 1945 "H. H. Robinson, Labor Assistant, met with five Negro Women's Extension Clubs on one or more occasions when methods of living were discussed that would promote health and lighten household duties of women in a manner that would permit them to increase the amount of time devoted to farm work." The five clubs were Fish Lake, Pinhook, Wyatt, Wolf Island, and Charleston.

The first Negro agent working in the county was probably Miss Morrissee, in the 1930's. Gloria Wynn who was living in Charleston in 1947, may have been the first one assigned to this county. Others working in the county have been Ella Stackhouse, Martha E. Farris and Beulah Nichols.

Following Mary Summers as County Home Agent have been Ethel Watson, Flo M. Baker, Helen A. Hansen Koehler, Mildred M. Steward, Glinda Beck, Gertrude Alexander, and Mrs. Marion Wallace. In 1960, the area program was accepted and following Mrs. Wallace as area Home Economist, with headquarters in Mississippi County, is Mrs. Fredericka Plummer.

Educational programs throughout the fifty years have been relevant to the needs and interests of the homemakers. The first ones taught skills in foods, clothing and management of the home. Health, safety and other programs and activities which relate to the best development of the family, home and community have been added.

In 1972 there are nine clubs with 135 members: Bridges, Gravel Ridge, Happy Circle, Home Improvement, Merry Mixers, Russell, Texas Bend, Town and Country and Wonder Workers.

### *Mississippi County Farm Loans Association*

The Board of Directors when it was first organized were: W. D. Cain, Will Pope, J. W. Greer, J. E. Harper, and John A. Powell.

### *Mississippi County Gun Club*

It was organized in 1969 with the following officers: President, Glen Ault; Vice-President, Al Moreton; Secretary-Treasurer, Bud Atory; Manager, Marty Williams. The club holds competitive gun shoots and teaches gun safety to children twice yearly.

### *Mississippi County Recreation Association*

A meeting was held on January 12, 1966, at the East Prairie High School for the purpose of organizing an association. The officers elected were: Sam Jones, President; Ed Coon, 1st Vice-President; L. D. Davis, 2nd Vice-President; Martha White, Secretary; Dick Reed, Treasurer; and Art Wallhausen, Sr., Corresponding Secretary. Board members elected were: Fred Ferrell, R. Q. Brown, Sr., Tom Brown, Jr., Lloyd Hall, E. R. Putnam and Buddie Marshall. In April of 1968 the association was incorporated. By 1968 the association had been able to make improvements and inlets into four good fishing spots in the county and by 1971 had a membership of 778. It was instrumental in obtaining for the county the construction of the Big Lake Project two miles north of Charleston. In June the Missouri Conservation Commission accepted a bid of \$207,280 from Six States Construction Co. of Blytheville, Arkansas to construct a levee and water control structure creating a permanent 100-plus-acre fishing lake. The Recreation Association raised over \$15,000 to purchase land and pay legal fees so that the land could be deeded to the Conservation Department.

### *Mississippi County Historical Society and Art Gallery*

In April of 1966 Velna Brown was elected temporary chairman and a drive was made for membership. At a tea held in May, fifty memberships were sold. The Society was formally voted into existence on June 9, 1966. The members present at the meeting voted to create a permanent organization and to adopt articles of incorporation. The society by now had 312 members and planned to open a museum in the Russell Hotel in July. For a time the museum and art gallery was kept open several hours each week and art exhibits held monthly. As money ran low the society was forced to close the museum. In June of 1971 the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company deeded the depot on Commercial Street to the society and when money is available to repair and remodel the building the museum will be moved to that location.

### *Mississippi County Republican Women's Club*

Organized March 18, 1969 with the following officers elected: Edith Lough, President; Elizabeth Webb, Vice-President; Ora Mae Heath, Treasurer; and Alberta Yoakum, Secretary.

### *Mississippi County Teacher's Association*

This organization was started in 1920 through the efforts of

Mrs. Clara E. Graham. It started with a membership of thirty teachers. Mrs. Graham was elected chairman, H. L. Jones, Vice-Chairman and George E. McFadden, Secretary-Treasurer.

#### *Modern Woodmen of America*

The first Camp of Modern Woodmen of America was founded in 1883. The chief symbols were the beetle, ax and wedge. Local lodges were called camps and members were known as Neighbors. A new member may skip the initiation and lodge meetings if he just wants to purchase life insurance. A camp was organized in Mississippi County around fifty years ago.

A meeting was held at Sikeston in 1973 and John Lee and W. R. Chron, Sr. of Charleston received 50 year pins.

#### *Modern Woodmen of America Lodge No. 3988 (East Prairie)*

The following officers were installed in 1917: H. C., J. H. Chunn; C. A., W. R. Morgan; Banker, A. L. Webb, Jr.; Escort, James Walker; Clerk, Bird Hubbard.

#### *Molly French Garden Club*

Due to Mrs. Molly French's love of flowers and gardening, as well as her generosity with her flowers, it was decided to honor her by giving the Club her name.

Because of Mrs. Harry Crowe's love and interest in gardening, the Molly French Garden Club was organized in April, 1951.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Frank Bihr; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Harry Crowe; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Judith Shelby; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Garnet Waggener; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Joan Downs; Treasurer, Mrs. Mamie Dernoncourt.

The objects of the club are: (1) to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, (2) to aid in protection of nature, trees, plants, and birds, (3) to encourage civic planting and thus, work for the beauty of Charleston.

This has been accomplished largely through the Plant and Shrub Sale which has been held each April since 1956. Since that date, 17 years ago, several thousand azaleas, dogwood trees, shrubs, flowering trees and flowering plants have been set out in this community.

Some of the projects of the club consist of: planting trees and shrubs in the Simpson Park in 1956; the supervision and planting of trees and shrubs at the County Court House, library, scout cabin, Charleston R1 Senior High School, Charleston R-1 Junior High School, Rolwing Park, Missouri Utilities, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Good Will Store, Methodist Church, Nazarene Church, Church of Christ, azaleas and other flowering plants in the Goodin Circle; several dogwood trees were set out at the entrance to the town on South Main Street; landscaping the new City Hall on North Main Street; 51 ornamental and shade trees set out in the IOOF Cemetery and future plans to continue planting trees and shrubs from time to

time; Dogwood-Azalea Festival Tour sponsored jointly with the Chamber of Commerce; Joella's corner (near railroad); landscaping the Governor Hearn's Sign at the east entrance to Charleston; sponsor Girl Scout Troop 47; Christmas Door Decoration Contest; Fall Harvest Door Decoration Contest; Yard of the Month (April-October); Arbor Day — donate trees to City and Churches each April; Drinkwater Bird Sanctuary maintained; bird feeder and supply of feed to local center for retarded children; Christmas wardrobe for needy high school girl; Christmas lighting contest (cash prizes). Contributions are made to various civic activities and numerous worthwhile causes.

Through the twenty-two years the Molly French Garden Club was organized in Charleston, it has tried to live up to its slogan: "More beautiful surroundings, More peace of mind, A better realization of God".

The following are members in 1973: Mrs. Frank Bihr, Mrs. B. Grinstead Brewer, Mrs. Thomas A. Byrd, Mrs. Jack Carson, Mrs. Harry Crowe, Mrs. J. M. Cullison, Mrs. H. E. Drake, Mrs. E. B. Drinkwater, Mrs. D. J. Gallagher, Mrs. John W. L. Goodin, Mrs. Vernon Goodin, Mrs. Warren E. Hearn's, Mrs. F. D. Lair, Mrs. E. C. Marshall, Sr., Miss Louise Marshall, Miss Joella Moore, Mrs. James Moran, Mrs. James Moreton, Mrs. H. V. Morrow, Mrs. Layton Pickard, Mrs. George Shelby, Jr., Mrs. A. L. Story, Jr., Mrs. David N. Thompson, Mrs. J. T. Turner, Mrs. James Thurmond, Mrs. Margaret M. Thurmond, Mrs. Marion Waggener, Mrs. David B. Brewer. (Information supplied by Loretta Gallagher.)

*Mystic Degree Lodge No. 69, Daughters of Rebekah* (Charleston)

It was chartered on May 20, 1886, with thirty-six members and in 1888 had a membership of fifty eight. It was reinstituted March 26, 1909, with thirty-eight charter members: Mrs. J. A. Young, N. G.; Mrs. W. L. Grinstead, V. G.; Miss Zetta Davis, Secretary; Miss Agnes Fisher, Financial Secretary; and Miss Etta Wilson, Treasurer.

*NAACP* (Charleston)

This local chapter was started May 13, 1940, by Dean Pickens while Walter White was National Chairman of the organization. Richard Conklin Maclin was the first President of the Charleston chapter. Marshall Currin has been President since 1942 and is still serving in that office.

*Order of Calathian* (Charleston)

This order was first started at Wolf Island around 1940 and is still an active group.

*P. E. O.*

The P. E. O. Sisterhood was founded January 21, 1869, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Chapter CV, Charleston, Missouri, was organized in May, 1917, by Elizabeth Adams. The Charter Members were: Mrs. Maud Howlett Alexander, Mrs. Mary



Crenshaw Deal, Mrs. Clara Graham, Mrs. Alice Johns, Mrs. Lota Clarkson Marshall, Mrs. Margaret Stephens Moore, Mrs. Nell Deal Ragsdale.

P. E. O. is primarily interested in the better education for women and the promotion of world peace through mutual understanding. Among its important projects are Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, founded in 1884 by one of the Charter Members, Alice Cottey. Since 1929 this college has been owned by the National P.E.O. Sisterhood under whose sponsorship an International character has been achieved. Students participate in a broad two years academic program designed to allow them to complete their education in any university.

P. E. O. International Peace Scholarships enables women from other countries to continue their studies in the university of their choice. This year, in Missouri alone, there are twelve students taking advantage of this opportunity. Educational Fund Loans on easy terms enable many American girls to continue to study here and abroad. During the years Chapter CV has sponsored a number of these girls, and, at present, the Chapter is awarding two \$100.00 scholarships to outstanding students of the Charleston High School. (Information supplied by Loretta Gallagher).

*Parent Teachers Association* (East Prairie)

The East Prairie PTA includes all the R-2 schools with a membership of around one hundred. It was organized in the 1940's with Mrs. Ralph Bogart as the first President. The association recently purchased a jungle gym for the Doyle School and is working with the Community Betterment Club in buying land for a park.

*Past Noble Grand Club* (Charleston)

The members are composed of Past Noble Grands of the Rebekahs. It is mainly a social group, but was organized to assist the Rebekah Lodge. Mrs. Matilda DeLine organized the Charleston Club on August 2, 1906. Mrs. Amma Marshall was the first president and the Rebekah Lodge is named after her.

*Red Cross—American National Red Cross—Mississippi County Chapter*

On June 16, 1941, Mrs. Hartrel Brock was named by the Mississippi County Chapter of the American Red Cross to serve as executive secretary, due to the Red Cross activity caused by World War II.

On December 18th the war chest campaign opened an office in a room donated by the First Security Bank with Mrs. Brock in charge.

Rev. J. C. Montgomery was chairman for the first drive for funds to meet the war related needs, as obligated by Red Cross through the charter granted by an act of Congress in 1881. The quota for this drive was over subscribed.

When the campaign office closed, the chapter had office



Past Noble Grand members in a picture made around 1910. Bottom row from left, Hattie Golightly, Hattie Wright, Pearl Howlett, Bess Stille; second row, Mrs. Huston, Lizzie Rowe, Bettie Hagan, Ammie Marshall, Bettie Rosenstein, Mrs. Lou Moore; top row, Mary Hill, Mae Thorp Williams, Eunice Marshall, Mrs. Jim Hill, Olga Clack, Jennie Patterson, Rose Parks. (Bottom row-four are to the left in picture)

Courtesy Florence Gresham

space in the Russell building. Miss Louise Brown served as a volunteer and assisted Mrs. Brock from 8 o'clock until 5 o'clock six days a week throughout the war years.

In 1952 the office moved to the basement of the Court House where it is at the present time.

After the resignation of Mrs. Brock in 1957, Mrs. David N. Thompson was elected to fill the vacancy and is presently in the office. Through the years Mrs. Brock and Miss Brown have served faithfully as Red Cross volunteers. Mrs. Brock has also done disaster work for the National organization.

Frank Bihr has served the longest term as a board member — he was elected to the board in 1955 and for many years has been a great help to this Red Cross Chapter.

Rowe Powell joined the Red Cross board in July, 1958, and served as treasurer until his death in December, 1973. He unselfishly gave of his time and his talents and was a valuable asset to the American Red Cross.

The Mississippi County Chapter was organized July 23, 1917 with Frank Lair, Chairman; Mrs. E. R. Johnson, Vice-

Chairman; Lucile Lindsay, Treasurer; J. M. Haw, Secretary; Frank M. See, Alfred Harris, O. F. Daniel, Mrs. O. W. Joslyn, George Bridges, Charles Trickey, Scott Alexander and George W. Kirk. (Information supplied by Mrs. David N. Thompson.)  
*Royal Neighbors of America, Camp No. 5065* (Charleston)

Basically the Royal Neighbors is an auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America. Membership is open to Woodmen and their female relatives. Founded nationally in 1892, it was reorganized in 1895 as a separate benefit society. Today it is mainly a fraternal benefit society with a family insurance plan. There are around forty-seven in Charleston who have insurance with the society.

#### *Scottish Rite*

A Master Mason may elect to climb one or both of the two Masonic ladders of the higher rites: The Scottish or York rites. In 1970 the officers were: Bruce Austin, President; Kenneth Heath, Vice-President; Paul Adkisson, Secretary-Treasurer; Floyd Stallings, 1st Alt.; Ralph Adkisson, 2nd Alt.; Martin Stallings, 3rd Alt.; Charles McCloskey, 4th Alt.

#### *Tuesday Music Guild* (Charleston)

This club was organized March 24, 1949, and at the following meeting in April elected the following officers: President, Mrs. Charles Allen Cook; Vice-President, Mrs. H. D. Ficklin; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Hartrel Brock; Treasurer, Mrs. Velna C. Harrison; Librarian, Mrs. Sidney Friedman; Press and Publicity, Miss Ann Latimer; Choral Director, Mrs. Clyde Swank; Assistant Choral Director, Joe Smith; Accompanist, Mrs. George Roberts (Nell); Assistant Accompanist, Mrs. Charles Farmer, Jr.

In 1969 after Katherine Boone died the club changed its name to the *Katherine Boone Music Club* in her honor. It has been a national and state federated club since its organization.  
*University Extension Service in Mississippi County*

The objective of the extension service is to bring the University of Missouri to the people of the counties of Missouri. It was started in Mississippi County on September 16, 1917 with E. E. Vanatta as the first agent. He was succeeded by O. H. DeWolf in 1919 who was then succeeded by R. Q. Brown, Sr. in 1921. Paul Teal was agent from 1926 to 1934 when Brown was returned to Mississippi County and served until 1960.

In 1917 W. H. Rusk of the U. S. Department of Agriculture assisted by Vanatta conducted a seed corn campaign to aid in the war effort. During the early years of extension service the agents were also influential in securing for Mississippi County a Live Stock Shippers Association, a Farmers Mutual Life Insurance Company, a Farm Loan Association and a Melon Growers Association.

Between 1923 and 1950 cotton was the main crop in the county. Corn had long been grown with an average yield of 35 to



55 bushels per acre. R. Q. Brown tried to interest the farmers in using correct fertilizers and planting closer to increase the yield. The idea was to try for 100 bushels per acre of a 5 acre plot to see if it could be done. The first person to receive an award was Frank Johnson. In 1952 C. Kirb Anderson became a member of the Mississippi County 100 Bushel Corn Club, as did several others. In 1956 Anderson raised 142 bushels per acre. The project grew and was eventually enlarged to a Semo Club including the counties of Scott, New Madrid and Mississippi.

By 1961 extension service had branched out and specialists in the fields of agronomy, youth and home economists had been added. In 1970 area directors were appointed and each staff member now serves in a specialized role. Glen Patton, who succeeded R. Q. Brown, Sr. in 1960, is now stationed at the Delta Community Center at Portageville and serves the southeastern counties of Pemiscot, Dunklin, New Madrid, Scott, Stoddard, and Mississippi.

Still stationed in Charleston but serving the same area are Floyed Wright, Jr., agronomist; Fredricka Plummer, home economist, specializing in housing and interior design; and William D. Purnell, youth specialist. There are ten other specialists at Portageville who serve the area in the fields of farm management, continuing education, community development, livestock, horticulture, entomology, family and child development, clothing and textiles, food and nutrition, and youth. *Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary* (Charleston)

Mrs. Atlanta Puckett of Sikeston, Missouri did the set-up work and it was organized October 25, 1951. Mrs. E. C. Clinton, District Auxiliary President acted as the installing officer and the following officers were installed November 15, 1951: Mrs. Betty Powell, President; Mrs. Georgia Fleurdelys, Senior Vice-President; Mrs. Wanda Jones, Junior Vice-President; Mrs. Bernice Stader, Secretary; Mrs. Lydia Morris, Treasurer. There are around sixty members in the organization today. Charter members were: Fern Below, Jeanette Carwin, Juanita Cherry, Halleen Choat Cook, Alberta Criss, Clara Davis, Daisy Fleurdelys, Georgia Fleurdelys, Daisy Galemore, Helen M. Galemore, Nellie Goodall, Ella Choat Graham, Edna Gwaltney, Thelma Jean Harvell, LaVerne Hutcherson, Lucille Hutcherson, Wanda Jones, Ida Mae Larkins, Hazel Laster, Dorothy Linebaugh, Mildred Linebaugh, Betty Litchford, Mabel Marshall, Lydia M. Morris, Ruth L. Morris, Elva Noisworthy, Elsie O'Reilly, Florentine Prosser, Betty Powell, Beatrice Rolwing, Laura Rowe, Martha Shortz, Ella Smith, Lois Snyder, Bernice Stader, Dora Taylor, Rebecca Thurman, Charity B. Walker, Anna Wright and Norean Mae Wright.

*V. F. W. Post No. 4294* (Charleston)

This post was formed July 27, 1945 with thirty-nine members. Officers elected were: Commander, R. O. Deweese;



Sr. Vice-Commander, C. A. Cook; Jr. Vice-Commander, R. C. Marshall; Quartermaster, T. A. Zilafro; Adjutant, L. H. Poe; Chaplain, W. R. Davis; Officer of the day, A. W. Padgett. Trustees were: Byron Guthrie, T. W. Gwaltney, and R. W. Par-tain.

*Woman's Christian Temperance Union (Charleston)*

Very early in the history of Mississippi County a WCTU chapter was organized. It has continued over the years and today still has a few members. Mrs. John Bird helped organize the chapter, and Mrs. W. C. Bryant was president for several years.

*Woman's Improvement Club (East Prairie)*

The club was organized in 1944 with twenty-three members and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Leslie Heise; Vice-President, Mrs. Joseph Webb; Secretary, Mrs. Ralph Bogart; Treasurer, Miss Pauline Watts. Club projects have in-cluded city beautification of the town and parks, help to under-privileged children and have worked as a civic group. Today they have twenty-five members.

*Woman's Study Club (Charleston)*

It was organized in 1931 with the following officers elected: Mrs. J. C. McDowell, President; Mrs. Frank Russell, Vice-President; Mrs. John Turner, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Charles Trickey, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Alice Johns, Treasurer; Mrs. J. J. Russell, Critic; Mrs. C. J. Joslyn, Parliamentarian.<sup>14</sup>



SCOTT ALEXANDER HOME (Charleston) was built by Frank Howlett around 1890 on Center Street where the Nazarene Church was later built.  
 Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



DR. ALPHEUS BONDURANT HOME (Charleston) was a large brick home built at 205 E. Marshall. For some years it was owned by Judge William T. Marshall and now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Young.  
 Courtesy Avis Muench

## Chapter XIV

### *HISTORIC HOMES AND BUSINESS HOUSES*

Only three homes in Mississippi County are listed in the Missouri Historic Sites Catalog, but there have been many fine homes built in the county over the years. Most of them have been destroyed and of those still standing many have been remodeled and no longer look as they did originally.

*O. W. Andrews Home* (Charleston) was built in 1879 at the northwest corner of Cypress and Virginia streets. At that time Cypress Street did not exist and Virginia Street ended at Andrews' corner. Everything east was field except for the Ben Huff home. The house originally faced Virginia but when Cypress Street was opened the Andrews built a porch to face Cypress. The first magnolia tree in Charleston was planted in the yard by Andrews. It was brought here from Vestal, Arkansas, by a salesman in his pocket and Andrews later sold them at his store. It is owned and occupied today by Inez Andrews.

*Baldue Home* (Charleston) was built in 1875 at 203 East Cypress Street. It was sold to the Danforth family in 1890 and destroyed by fire in 1902.

*Thomas Beckwith Home* (Charleston) is located at the corner of South Main and Vine Streets and has since been bricked.

*John A. Bird Home* was a large two-story frame house with a large attic built around 1822 and located just a short distance up stream from the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. It was moved back from the river several times as the bank caved in. It had eight rooms, two halls up and down that opened onto front and back two-story porches. The stairway was of walnut and most rooms had fireplaces. The above ground brick basement was divided into three sections for the storing of food. It was used by the 10th Iowa Regiment during the Civil War. For many years it was occupied but was torn down because of the flooding problems.

*Steven Bird Home* was similar in construction to the John A. Bird Home and was built a short distance above that home at Bird's Mill. It was built around 1822 and was lived in longer than the John A. Bird home but it too has been torn down.

*Thompson Bird Home* was built before the John A. Bird home and was a short distance below Bird's Point. It was similar in construction to the other Bird homes and later burned.

*Dr. I. H. Bridwell Home* (Charleston) was a log house with office behind it on the lot at 401 South Main Street where the H. T. Bryant home now stands.

*Thomas Byrd Home* (Charleston) was a large two story





HENRY COCHRAN HOME (Charleston) was built at 310 East Commercial and is now owned by Harry Keener.  
Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



E. P. DEAL HOME (Charleston) Built at 402 East Commercial by Mr. Deal.



frame house erected shortly after the Civil War at 501 South Main. It was torn down in 1917 to make way for a new brick residence built by James L. Byrd.

*Martha Cox Home* (Charleston) is located at 308 East Commercial and is now owned by Eddie C. Marshall, Jr. The land was deeded to Martha Cox by H. J. Deal and she sold it to Isaac Hisey in 1881.

*A. H. Danforth Home* (Charleston) was donated to the city for a YMCA and was razed in 1948 to make way for the Mississippi County Library building.

*L. W. Danforth Home* (Charleston) was built in 1892 at 105 Danforth. Fire damaged the third floor and the house was removed. It was later rebuilt and is still standing.

*Col. H. J. Deal Home* (Charleston) was built before the Civil War at 204 Vine Street and at one time was the finest residence in Charleston and was located on what was then one of the principal residential streets of the city. It was of French architecture. It was later owned by the Bogard family and then by William Krauss when it burned in 1922.

*Col. Henry J. Deal Home* (Charleston) was built at South Main across from the present H. T. Bryant home. After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Deal in 1891 and 1892, Mrs. Alonzo Barker of Bertrand used it as a restaurant until it was sold to Miss Mattie O'Bryan. Around 1943 Fred Nunnelee of Blodgett bought it for a funeral home.

*Derman Home* is probably the only original log house still in use in the county. It is located on the Spanish Grant two miles south of East Prairie. It has been covered on the outside with weatherboarding and on the inside with sheet rock but the original cypress logs can be seen in a closet and in the attic. The front porch has also been replaced. It is now owned by Mrs. Ethelbert Kerrigan.

*Gerard Goodin Home* is located across U. S. Business Route 60 from the Jacob Swank home west of Charleston.

*Frank Hequembourg Home* (Charleston) was a two story frame house built facing Marshall Street that was later owned by Rev. Allen Cooper. It was quite a showplace with tame deer roaming the grounds. The top story burned and it was made into a one story house. In 1895 Joseph Hart installed the waterworks in the house. There was a windmill and water tank to supply the water. It was recently torn down.

*William Lee home* (Charleston) was built by the parents of Judge William Lee and his sister Belle at the southwest corner of Market and Franklin Streets. It is now owned by Mrs. Earl Ferrell, Sr.

*Dr. William S. Love Home* was built in Bertrand and is still standing. After Dr. Love died his wife's brother Harris Rushing moved into the house. It was built around 1867 and is a two-story colonial style frame with two-story porches.



ALBERT VERNON GOODIN HOME (Charleston) was built at the end of South Main Street (now 515) and is owned by Mrs. Vernon Goodin.  
 Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



GUTZWILER HOME (Charleston). It was a two story brick home built at 222 East Commercial. It was demolished a few years ago and the Production Credit Association building now occupies the site.  
 Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



J. MOORE HAW, SR. HOME (Charleston) was a brick home built by the father of J. Moore Haw at 101 North Main. It was later the Joseph L. Moore home and is now owned by George Shelby, Jr.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



WILLIAM HOLLOWAY HOME (Charleston) was built at 510 East Cypress Street and is now owned by William Glass.

Courtesy Avis Muench





JOHN KIMMEL HOME (Charleston) was built on North Main and was later sold to T. J. Johns. It was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Young at the time it was purchased by Urban Renewal and has recently been razed.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



PAUL B. MOORE HOME (Charleston) built in 1901 at 201 North Main and named "The Locust". For many years it was the scene of elaborate social gatherings. It is still the property of his daughters, Margaret Moore and Joella Thurman.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy





HANDY MOORE HOME (Charleston) was built at 403 North Main Street. It presently belongs to Mrs. Joe H. Moore.  
Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



HANDY MOORE HOME (Charleston) was built at 210 East Cypress and was later owned by Dr. A. W. Chapman. At the present time it is an apartment building and belongs to Mrs. H. T. Bryant.

Courtesy Darron Noisworthy



DR. T. L. PATTERSON HOME (Charleston) was built around 1898 at 411 East Commercial by J. P. Loebe. It was purchased by Dr. Patterson in 1905. It is now an apartment house and belongs to R. B. Patterson. Shown in the picture taken in 1905 are Dr. and Mrs. Patterson and Robert on the porch, John and Joe at the left and Tom to the right.

Courtesy Robert Patterson



*McElmurry Home* (Charleston) was a one story frame house located on the Iron Bank Road. It was later owned by Nadine Chapman.

*C. D. Mitchell Home* (East Prairie) was built as a hotel around the 1888's before the town of East Prairie was laid out and during the time that the railroad into East Prairie was being built some of the railroad men stayed there. It is located on West Chestnut and has recently been remodeled.

*Charles and James L. Moore Home* (Charleston) was the first brick house in Charleston and was built where the Friedman building now stands at 201 South Main. It was occupied many years by Captain and Mrs. Valentine Preuitt.

*Charles W. Moore Home* (Charleston) is the present house on the northeast corner of Cypress and First Streets and was originally where the Cullison Building is now and faced west.

*Dr. H. L. Reid Home* (Charleston) is a large three story frame home built after 1896 at 508 South Main. It is presently owned by William Knight.

*J. J. Russell Home* was built around 1874 on South Main by a Mr. Balduc for the J. H. Bethune family who occupied it for many years. When the Bethunes moved to St. Louis in the early 1880's it was sold to J. J. Russell. It was razed in 1955 to make way for a Kroger Store which was later sold to the IGA Co. That building was razed in 1971 and a new one built on the west portion of the lot.

*Silas W. Smith Home* was built in 1867 one-half mile east and three-fourths miles south of Bertrand. It is a two-story colonial style frame with two-story porches and is still standing. It was partially restored in 1940 and 1954.<sup>1</sup>

*Joseph J. Russell Home* was one of the oldest in the county at the time that it burned in November of 1893. The William P. Bryant family was occupying it at the time.

*Swank Home* was built in the 1840's and at one time was the oldest house in the county. Now demolished, it was located on "The old French Place" in the Big Lake area, now one of the Drinkwater farms.

*Jacob Swank Home* (also referred to as "Old Brick House") is a two story brick house one mile west of Charleston on U. S. Business Route 60 and was built in 1839 on what at that time was known as the Woolfolk farm. The bricks were made on the premises from rock hauled from the bluff on Benton Road in Cape Girardeau County. Lime came from the Rock Levee and sand from Sand Bluff near Commerce, Missouri. The timber was cut in the swamp and was sawed with a whip saw. It has twenty paned windows and a walnut staircase from a central hall.<sup>2</sup> It is in a bad state of repair but is still standing. In 1973 it was included in the National Register of historic sites.

*Messer Ward Home* (Charleston) was built in 1866 at 314 East Commercial Street and is a two-story, eleven room L



Bricks for the Swank Home were hauled from Cape Girardeau County, the sand for plastering came from Sand Bluff near Commerce, and the timber was cut in the swamp and sawed with a whip-saw.



Messer Ward Home.



shaped brick with spiral walnut staircase and carved oak woodwork.<sup>3</sup> It was owned by the Deal family from 1894 to 1918 or 1919 and is now owned by Mrs. Ercell B. Drinkwater.

*William P. Swank Home* (Charleston) was built in 1868 at 308 South First Street and was a frame building. Two rooms were removed in the early 1900's; kitchen and back porch removed in 1916; front porch removed in 1946.<sup>4</sup> The land was deeded to Margaret H. Swank by H. J. Deal in 1869. It now belongs to Mrs. Frank M. Stotts.

*Roy Williams Home* was built in the early 1900's near Wyatt and had the only swimming pool at that time. Baptist church services were held in the YMCA building and when one group separated from the parent church its members were baptized in the Roy Williams' swimming pool. It burned around 1948 and the swimming pool was filled because it was dangerous. Burke Brothers now own the land.

*Charleston Academy* (Charleston) was the old three story brick academy built before the Civil War and was a magnificent structure. The Moore heirs later rented it out as a residence and it nearly burned several times. Only a shed is still standing behind the house now owned by William Knight at 508 South Main.

*Bondurant & Grinstead Drug Store* (Charleston) was located on the northwest corner of Main and Commercial streets. It later became the Brewer and Trickey and still later the Grinstead Brewer Rexall Drug Store. The Rexall Drug Store is on the same lot but not the original building. The present building was built around 1871.

*Charleston Branch of the Union Bank of Missouri* (Charleston) was erected by James L. and Joseph C. Moore in 1858-59 at a cost of something over \$6,000. The bricks were burned, hauled to town, and with the mortar placed upon the scaffolds by their own servants. It was a two-story building, 70 feet long and 45 feet wide, with tin roof and fire walls standing about four feet higher. The lower story of the south side was used by the bank, while in the rooms above were lawyers and doctor's offices. The north side was occupied first by William Stratton and then by Scott and Newman as a general merchandise store and warerooms, and was at that time much the largest and best fitted storeroom in the county. For the first three years it rented for \$800.00 per year, but after that it ceased to be a paying property.<sup>5</sup>

For several years after the close of the Civil War the second story of the building was used by the Masonic lodge. At this time the lower story of the south side of the building was used as railroad offices. Then the front room was rented by the county court and here Judge James M. Brown, and after him Judge N. B. Ogilvie, held court. The other rooms were used as law offices by Moore and Hatcher. With them J. J. Russell began the study

of law. After Joseph C. Moore retired from business and moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1883, the offices were occupied by the new law firm of Hatcher & Russell until the death of Hatcher. With this firm E. J. Deal commenced the study of law.<sup>6</sup>

After the burning of the court house the county court used all of this part of the building for its sittings, and also as office for the county clerk. The north side of the building was used by George H. Bridges for a Cob Pipe factory, and from it thousands of boxes of cob pipes were shipped to all parts of the country. In 1901 it was torn down by G. W. Glover. It was located on Cleveland Street on the south side of the lot where the Paul B. Moore home was later built at 201 North Main.<sup>7</sup>

*Buckner-Ragsdale Mercantile Co.* (Charleston) was organized and opened by W. Buckner Ragsdale in 1910 at the southeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets. The building is now occupied by Sears-Roebuck Catalog Store. The present Buckner-Ragsdale Store is on the southeast corner of Main and Market Streets.

*J. L. Howlett & Co. General Store* (Charleston) was located on the southwest corner of Main and Market Streets where Friedman's Store now stands. It burned in February of 1901.

*Mississippi County Bank* (Charleston) was built in 1901 at 105 East Commercial. It was later used as a grocery store, then as offices for the Mississippi County Savings and Loan and is now the office of Ben Bird Moore.

*Mitchell Hotel* (Charleston) was built by D. D. Mitchell in 1898 at 202 West Commercial Street. In 1902 he built an addition and increased the capacity to fifty rooms. In October of 1908 he sold it to his son, George, and son-in-law, Lawrence Gunther. It has recently been razed as a part of Urban Renewal.

*R. L. Oliver Blacksmith and Wagon Shop* (Charleston) was located at Marshall and Green Streets and was torn down in 1904. Then the Hershel Word mule barn was built at the same location.

*Whitcomb Hotel* (Charleston) was the first brick hotel in Charleston and was built by George Whitcomb in 1854 on West Commercial directly behind what is now Brewer's Drug Store. It was afterward acquired by Mr. Kenrick and its name changed to Kenrick Hotel. It was later owned by George Gassman but burned in 1914.

*Winston Clinton Building* (Charleston) was one structure which could not be considered historic but an oddity. Located on West Market and Elm Streets, it was built by Winston Clinton entirely of 10,000 bottles cemented together.

## APPENDIX A

### NOTES

#### CHAPTER I. ORIGIN OF NAMES

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29. *Ibid.*
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32. *Ibid.*
33. *Enterprise-Courier.* March 5, 1964.

### CHAPTER III. EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS AND OTHER DISASTERS

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3. Shoemaker, Floyd. *Missouri and Missourians.* Vol. 1. p. 245.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
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8. Viitanen, Wayne. *The Winter the Mississippi Ran Backwards.* Register - Kentucky Historical Society. Vol. 71. No. 1
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Weekly Enterprise

Ben Bird Moore, Jr. has located fifty cemeteries in Mississippi County. They are located on the map by number. Mrs. William (Julia) Chandler was the first person buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Allen                        | 26. Isaac Millar                    |
| 2. Anniston (active)            | 27. Ivie                            |
| 3. Armer                        | 28. Keen                            |
| 4. Barker                       | 29. Lee                             |
| 5. Barker-Zilafro               | 30. Lee                             |
| 6. Barnard                      | 31. Millar                          |
| 7. Belmont                      | 32. Millar                          |
| 8. Bertrand                     | 33. Moore                           |
| 9. Bird                         | 34. O'Bryan                         |
| 10. Cavalry (active)            | 35. Oak Grove (active)              |
| 11. Clarkson                    | 36. Odd Fellows (active)            |
| 12. Coleman                     | 37. Pinhook                         |
| 13. Cooley                      | 38. Pinhook                         |
| 14. Corbett                     | 39. Pryor                           |
| 15. Destroyed -<br>name unknown | 40. Rush Ridge                      |
| 16. Dirk                        | 41. Russell                         |
| 17. Dogwood (active)            | 42. Shepard                         |
| 18. Dorena                      | 43. Sherman                         |
| 19. Family unknown              | 44. Smith-Griggs (active)           |
| 20. Family unknown              | 45. Sue Millar                      |
| 21. Franklin                    | 46. Texas Bend Catholic<br>(active) |
| 22. Gray                        | 47. Thompson                        |
| 23. Greer ?                     | 48. Travis                          |
| 24. Handy family                | 49. Vanlandingham                   |
| 25. Huff                        | 50. Woodmen of the World            |

# CEMETERIES



## GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP MISSISSIPPI COUNTY MISSOURI

PREPARED BY THE  
MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAY PLANNING

IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS





## APPENDIX C

### BIOGRAPHICAL SECTION

*Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri* includes biographies of people living in Mississippi County in 1888. Most have not been included as the book is still available from Ramfre Press at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A listing at the end gives those to be found in *Goodspeed*.

Information was mainly taken from five sources and is coded as follows:

D - Douglas, Robert Sidney, *History of Southeast Missouri*

H - Hunter, Stephen, *Joseph Hunter and Related Families*

R - Reavis, L. U. *Productive Power, History, Growth and Advantages of Mississippi County*

M - Shoemaker, Floyd, *Missouri and Missourians*

N - *Newspapers*

Some family histories were submitted by individuals and are so credited.

(N) ADAMS, NEEL ( 1829 - June 31, 1892) who died in the Concord Settlement.

ALEXANDER, SCOTT (January 17, 1862 - January 11, 1933) was born in New Liberty, Owen County, Kentucky the son of J. J. and Mary (Tandy) Alexander. His education was obtained at institutions of his own state. It began in his native town and was supplemented by a four year course at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. After graduation there he took a full course at a commercial college in Lexington where he graduated in 1887. His connection with the Charleston Bank began in 1887. In 1890, he married Maud Howlett (February 27, 1869 - June 1944) daughter of FRANK and REBECCA (LEE) HOWLETT. They had two daughters; LUCILE who married JOSEPH L. MATTHEWS of Sikeston, and DOROTHY who married DAVID THOMPSON of BUTLER, MISSOURI. He served on the CHARLESTON school board from 1899 - 1921. He was very active in the BAPTIST CHURCH and served as deacon for a number of years. (Information supplied by Dorothy Thompson, Charleston, Missouri.)

ANDREWS, OLAVE WALTER (March 30, 1851 - December 7, 1918) came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1874. He first married MATILDA LOEBE and they had one child, BESSIE. MATILDA died and in 1882 he married NETTIE LUTZ, daughter of IGNATIUS LUTZ and ELIZABETH LUTZ (November 3, 1864 - September 21, 1931). A son, IGNATIUS O. was born September 22, 1883, and a daughter, INEZ, on August 12, 1890. Mr. ANDREWS ran a bakery and confectionery and

made a soda fountain and bottled the first soda water sold in Southeast MISSOURI. He also patented a well point for pumps in the delta land which could not be stripped when pulling. At his death his daughter took over the business until the death of her mother in 1931. (Information supplied by Inez Andrews, Charleston, Missouri.)

(N) *ARMER, NOAH W.* ( 1857 - July, 1893) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, son of WILLIAM and SARAH RUSHING ARMER (1827 - July 1893). In 1866 he married KATY FRAWLEY. A daughter, ELOISE, was born August 21, 1887. He was buried at ARMER CEMETERY.

(N) *ASHBY, FRANK* ( 1893 ? - September 4, 1941) married EFFIE ANDERSON in 1916. He was survived by her and one son, RODERICK ASHBY.

(N) *ASHBY, FRANKLIN BENJAMIN, SR.* ( 1862? - July 4, 1940) moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from ILLINOIS in 1881. He was survived by three sons; OSCAR, ALPHIE, and FRANK.

(N) *ATKINS, MRS. RACHAEL* ( 1817? - September 27, 1879)

(N) *AYCOCK, CHARLES BINGLEY* (October 13, 1870 - March 23, 1912) was born in CALLAWAY COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and came with his father to MISSOURI in 1874 settling in SCOTT COUNTY. When a young man he moved to EAST PRAIRIE. In March of 1898 he married SUSIE WILLIAMSON, daughter of WILLIAM WILLIAMSON. He was survived by his widow and three children; RUTH, CLARENCE and EUGENE.

(N) *BAILEY, EZEKIEL ("UNCLE ZEKE")* ( 1852 - 1936) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY around 1876. He was at various time Justice of the Peace, City Assessor, Constable, and Deputy Sheriff. He was preceded in death by his wife and a daughter, MRS. CORDIA FRYE. He was survived by a son, HENRY BAILEY.

(N) *BAKER, DAVID* (May 24, 1829 - September 7, 1894) was born in CHARLOTTE, N. C., the son of JACOB AND ELMIRA (PEET) BAKER, both of whom were natives of NORTH CAROLINA. On November 20, 1851, he married MARGARET, a daughter of JOHN and SARAH (ANCELL) DAVIS, who were natives of NORTH CAROLINA. He then went to TENNESSEE, back to WOLF ISLAND for three years and then to the CONCORD settlement where he purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land. In 1879 he moved to CHARLESTON where he bought several lots and a house. He died September 7, 1894, at the age of sixty-five. At the time of his death he had eight hundred acres of land. MR. and MRS. DAVID BAKER had three children only one of whom survived MR. BAKER — MRS. DR. A. A. BONDURANT.

(N) *BARKER, DR. ALONZO* (July 15, 1855 - November 25, 1895) was born near CAMDEN, BENTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE. He was raised on a farm. At the age of twenty-three or twenty-four he began the study of medicine, attending a course of lectures at VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY in the winter of 1879 and 1880. He then associated himself with DR. TUBBS of CAMDEN and in the fall attended a second course at the UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE from which he graduated in February of 1881. He returned to CAMDEN and resumed his practice but in December of 1881 moved to BERTRAND, MISSOURI, and built up a large practice. In the summer of 1893 he moved to CHARLESTON. He contracted small pox during the epidemic of 1895 and died at the age of forty. His wife, MAMIE, survived him.

(N) *BARTLETT, GEORGE H.* ( 1828? - November 2, 1880) was born on BARNARD'S RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. His wife SARAH died March 2, 1881.

(N) *BASTIAN, STEPHEN* ( 1825? - August 17, 1882) lived in CHARLESTON for twenty-five years and followed his trade of shoemaking.

(N) *BATTERTON, MRS. FANNIE* ( 1823? - December 14, 1901) was born in BOONE COUNTY. Her maiden name was CREWES. In 1840 she married GEORGE W. BATTERTON. Seven children survived her, one of them being MRS. I. M. FRANK of CHARLESTON.

*BECK, J. ABNER* ( ? - ) was elected County Superintendent of Schools in 1935 and served until the office was abolished in 1967. During those years he belonged to numerous associations and served on various committees. He was on the Executive Committee of the Missouri State Teachers Association Public Relations Committee for thirteen years. He was appointed to the State Superintendent of Schools Advisory Committee from 1939 to 1947 and served on the National Education Association Public Relations Committee as a representative from Mississippi County from 1940-1944. He was a leader in establishing the state training center No. 38 in Charleston for mentally retarded children of Mississippi County and was U. S. Agricultural Statistician of the Doane Countywide Farm Panels in 1963. He was a member of the Southeast Missouri School Administrators Association from 1935-1967, and is presently a member of the Southeast Missouri District Teachers Association, Mississippi County Teachers Association, the Missouri County Superintendents Association, and the Southeast Missouri Division of Missouri Delta Development Commission Education Committee. He served on the Mississippi County Library Board as an ex-officio member from the time it was organized in 1947 until the office of County Superintendent of Schools was abolished. He has been active in many local clubs and was an Honorary Colonel on the Staff of Governors of Phil

M. Donnelly and John M. Dalton. He and his wife, Hazel, still reside in Charleston.

(H-N) *BECKWITH, THOMAS* (January 24, 1840 - June 7, 1913) was born at WOLF ISLAND in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY the second son of QUIROS and SUSAN JOHNSTON BECKWITH of FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA. On February 1, 1870, he moved to CHARLESTON and followed farming as an occupation. When his father died in 1862 he left to THOMAS and his brother, QUIROS, a farm of eleven hundred acres, a wood yard and saw and grist mill and ninety-seven slaves. The floods of the MISSISSIPPI RIVER and the destruction of the war destroyed the value of the land and the brothers did not recover from their financial loss for many year. On March 11, 1862, he married LAURA SWANK (December 4, 1844 - April 5, 1909) and they had four children. A son, WILLIE, was killed while young and the daughters were LILLIE M. (November 26, 1864 - May 22, 1933), MINNIE L., and OLLIE L. who married W. CLARK RUSSELL. CLARK and OLLIE'S sons were WILLIE and TOM RUSSELL. THOMAS later married MARGARET VERNON HALLER and they had one daughter, SUSAN BECKWITH, who married COL. FRANK PHILLIPS. He was famous for his collection of Indian artifacts which are now in the MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY IN CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI, and was the author of "The Indian Mound Builders".

(H) *BECKWITH, QUIROS* (September 25, 1801 - ?) was born in VIRGINIA, the son of NEWMAN BECKWITH. He settled in MISSOURI. On April 2, 1839, he married SUSAN JOHNSTON who was born in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, October 31, 1813. To this union five children were born, only two of whom survived the parents; QUIROS and THOMAS.

(H) *BECKWITH, MARMADUKE* (February 11, 1806 - March 29, 1881) was born in FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, the son of NEWMAN BECKWITH. He died at ARCADIA, MISSOURI. He was married twice. His first wife was a GRIF-FIN and his children by her were UNDERWOOD and LUCY. LUCY married a DR. TRAVIS. She and UNDERWOOD both died in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, without issue. His second wife was CATHERINE HUNTER PRICE, daughter of ABRAHAM HUNTER. The children of this union were: ADANDA HUNTER BECKWITH, JUDITH ANN BECKWITH, RICHARD A. BECKWITH, THOMAS B. BECKWITH, and YANCY.

(H) *BECKWITH, QUIROS* ( 1847 - February 8, 1879) was the son of QUIROS born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI. He married SUSAN JAMES on August 6, 1866. She died July 4, 1879. To this union were born; QUIROS "ELMO" who married MOLLIE GATZ, half-sister of DR. GRINSTEAD, but had no issue, and JOHN HARDING "HAR-



DY". He died at WOLF ISLAND and was buried there. His only living son, QUIROS ELMO BECKWITH, was assistant cashier of the CAIRO NATIONAL BANK at CAIRO, ILLINOIS.

(H) *BECKWITH, JOHN HARDING* ( 1867 - ? ) was the second son of QUIROS. He married JULIA WINBUSH of KENTUCKY on December 28, 1887. He died survived by his wife and one son who moved to KENTUCKY.

(H) *BECKWITH, NEWMAN* (October 14, 1767 - June 13, 1835) was the son of MARMADUKE and SYBEL ELLZEY BECKWITH. He was born in RICHMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA, and moved to MISSOURI in 1812. He settled between NORFOLK and WOLF ISLAND, south of and opposite the mouth of the OHIO RIVER, in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He married JUDITH ANN NEALE, a daughter of RICHARD and FRANCES UNDERWOOD NEALE. She was born in Virginia and died in MISSOURI in 1830. She was an aunt of the mother of GENERAL "STONEWALL" JACKSON of the Confederate Army. They had the following children but only three survived the parents. NEWMAN BECKWITH and his seven sons and two daughters and wife moved to MISSOURI. Only two sons and one daughter had issue. Sons: UNDERWOOD, RICHARD, QUIROS, MARMADUKE, FRANCIS, MOUNTAIRE BARNES. Daughters: LUCY, SABINA. NEWMAN and SYBEL moved from FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA to Southeast MISSOURI in the spring of 1812. With them were their children and slaves. They settled in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY.

(N) *BENNETT, TED* (August 2, 1888 - May 13, 1971) was born in HUNTINGTON, TENNESSEE, the son of RUBEN and ANNIE PHILLIPS BENNETT. His first marriage in 1912 was to PEARL BRADLEY who died in 1915. In 1918 he married HATTIE MAE LINDLEY who survived him. Also surviving were six daughters; MRS. VIRGINIA MAZINGO, MRS. ERCCELL DEBAUN, MRS. RUTH BYASEE, MRS. JESSIE MILLER, MRS. ANNIE GARRETT, and MRS. ILA MILLER, and three sons; RUBEN ARCHIE, HAROLD EUGENE and SAMUEL TEDDY. At the time of his death TED BENNETT was one of the few remaining pioneers of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He settled on a high ridge on the banks of JAMES BAYOU where he remained to raise his family. After a gravel road to JAMES BAYOU was completed he and his wife set up a "fish kitchen" of sorts. An iron kettle over an outdoor wood fire became the kitchen and hundreds of people have fond memories of "TED BENNETT fish fries." He was buried in DOGWOOD CEMETERY.

(N) *BERTHE, LUCIUS T.* (August 21, 1876 - January 5, 1950) was a civil and flood control engineer and a resident of CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, for forty years. He died at the age of seventy-three. He received his technical education at Drury

College and Purdue University. He was an authority in his field and had done a great deal of successful work in drainage, flood control, sewers, and pavements throughout his section of the state. He was born at Winona, Minnesota. He was survived by: MRS. RAMONA BENITA BERTHE, one son, CHARLES, three daughters, SUSAN, MRS. WALTER LUCAS and RAMONA.

(N) *BETHUNE, MRS. J. H. (JULIA)* (January 26, 1853 - September 9, 1902) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the sister of GEORGE H. BRIDGES. She was married November 28, 1867. She was survived by her husband and four children; MRS. A. S. BARNES, JR., MRS. MARSHALL HALL, MISS ORA BETHUNE, BYRON BETHUNE, and two grandchildren, IRENE B. WILLIAMS and SYDNER HALL.

(H) *BIRD, ABRAM THOMPSON* ( ? - ? ) was the son of THOMPSON BIRD, SR., and brother of MARY I. BIRD HORRELL. He married JULIA L. VON PHUL who was a sister of BENJAMIN VON PHUL. The VON PHULS came to MISSOURI from LOUISIANA. To this union were born; ELIZABETH, HENRY, THOMPSON, JOHN, and MARY.

(M) *BIRD, ABRAHAM* ( ? - ? ) married MARY JONES on June 3, 1781, and brought his family down the Ohio River about 1795, and his place of settlement at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers was given the name of BIRD'S POINT. Some years later ABRAHAM BIRD and his son, THOMPSON, both moved to LOUISIANA, and the resident representative of the family was another son, JOHN BIRD, who owned a large plantation at BIRD'S POINT. MARY JONES BIRD died in 1844 and is buried in the BIRD family cemetery where a stone marks her grave. This cemetery is near a place now called ALFALFA CENTER.

(H) *BIRD, ABRAHAM THOMPSON* (December 23, 1867 - October 11, 1947) was the son of STEPHEN and ALLIE HUNTER BIRD. He married ELLA EDMUNDSON, a daughter of JOHN EDMUNDSON of Sikeston, Missouri. They had two daughters; ELLA who married A. M. HOUSER, and LUCY who never married and who lives in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI.

(HMN) *BIRD, JOHN* (November 26, 1795 - September 20, 1868) was the youngest son of ABRAHAM BIRD, SR. and MARY JONES. He went with his parents to Louisiana, but later became the owner of the BIRD PLANTATION on the Mississippi River facing the mouth of the Ohio River. He died on this plantation and is buried in the BIRD family cemetery. He married his cousin, INGABO BYRD, at Maryville, Tennessee, March 20, 1799. The following children were born of this union and recorded in the family Bible: BETSY BIRD born March 29, 1825; ABRAHAM BIRD born October 3, 1827; THOMPSON BIRD born December 26, 1828 and died December 22, 1888;

WILLIAM BIRD born December 1830 and died September 12, 1871; JOHN BIRD, born March 1, 1834; STEPHEN BIRD born January 27, 1836 and married ALLIE HUNTER and after her death AMANDA HUNTER; MARY ELIZA BIRD born January 26, 1838 and died in 1861 or 62; NANCY EMILY BIRD born November 16, 1840 and married BEN F. HUNTER of Scott County, Missouri; JAMES BIRD born November 29, 1842; THOMAS BIRD born December 29, 1845 and died December 31, 1866; CLARA BIRD born April 24, 1849 and married DR. THOMAS J. EDWARDS of Union City, Tennessee; ANDREW J. BIRD born March 17, 1852 and married LUCY HUNTER. INGABO BYRD BIRD was born November 30, 1807 and died April 17, 1864 and is also buried in the family cemetery. JOHN BIRD was without question, just before the Civil War, one of the largest property owners in the State of Missouri. He had city and farm lands in ST. LOUIS, CAIRO, PADUCAH, COLUMBUS, KENTUCKY, and BATON ROUGE, and large acreage of land in MISSOURI, Illinois, Kentucky, and Louisiana. Each of his sugar plantations in Louisiana had a sugar mill. In addition he had a large estate in personal property, not counting the negroes, who were emancipated in Missouri and Louisiana.

(H) *BIRD, JOHN ABRAM* (January 23, 1866 - May 1943) was born at BIRD'S POINT, the son of WILLIAM and LUCY BIRD. He married IVA DONNELL and their children were; DONNELL, TOM and KITTY.

(H) *BIRD, LUCY KATHERINE* (October 10, 1856 - November 5, 1929) was the daughter of JOSEPH and NANCY H. HUNTER. On September 28, 1876, she married ANDREW JACKSON BIRD and they had one child, MARY KATHERINE "KATE".

(H) *BIRD, NANCY EMILY* ( 1840 - February 1922) was the daughter of JOHN BIRD and married BEN F. HUNTER of Scott County, Missouri.

(H) *BIRD, STEPHEN* (January 27, 1836 - February 7, 1912) was the son of JOHN and INGABO HUNTER BIRD. He was married twice. His first wife was ALTHEA "ALLIE" HUNTER (August 5, 1845 - October 1873), the daughter of ISAAC OGDEN and SUSAN HILL HUNTER. By this marriage he had a son, ABRAHAM THOMPSON BIRD. His second marriage was to AMANDA HUNTER. Their son was HUNTER BIRD. STEPHEN BIRD was born in Louisiana and spent his life on the BIRD PLANTATIONS. He operated a sawmill as part of his activity. He was noted for his shot with a rifle.

(N) *BIRD, THOMPSON* (Dec. 26, 1828 - December 18, 1897) was buried in the family grave yard on STEPHEN BIRD'S farm at BIRD'S POINT.

(H) *BIRD, WILLIAM* (December 9, 1830 - September 2, 1871) was the son of JOHN BIRD and married LUCY CATHERINE MILLER of EAST PRAIRIE (November 23, 1845

- May 13, 1926). They had two children; JOHN ABRAM and SALLIE INGABO who married DR. SAMUEL B. CARY of Union City, Tennessee.

(N) *BLACK, A.* (May 20, 1823 - March 1902) was born in Hungary. In 1844 he married ROSA NEIMAN ( 1822? - January 5, 1902) and came to the UNITED STATES in 1856. They moved to CHARLESTON in 1889. Four children and her husband survived MRS. BLACK.

(N) *BLEDSON, WILLIAM* (September 26, 1882 - 1970) was born in NEW MADRID COUNTY but lived in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY sixty-five years. He was postmaster of EAST PRAIRIE for twenty-five years, retiring in 1958. On June 21, 1911, he married MEDA H. HALBROOK. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, MRS. VIRGINIA DAVIS and MRS. ANNETTE GIVENS.

(N) *BONDURANT, JOHN CONNELLY* (July 4, 1863 - September 1949) was born in JORDAN, KENTUCKY, the son of JOHN SIMPSON BONDURANT and JULIA DAVIS BONDURANT. He moved to CHARLESTON as a young man and was a member of the drug firm BONDURANT and OGILVIE for fifty years. He was survived by his wife EVA NUNNELLY BONDURANT; two sons, DR. ALPHEUS BONDURANT, DONALD BONDURANT, and one daughter, MRS. FRANK SEE.

(N) *BONDURANT, MRS. SALLIE* (December 16, 1862 - July 6, 1895) was born near MARTIN, WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. She was the eighth child of eleven born to RICHARD and SARAH WAGGONER. On March 23, 1887, she married J. C. BONDURANT, a young druggist of CHARLESTON and a native of KENTUCKY. They had four children, only one of whom survived her.

(N) *BONDURANT, DR. ALPHEUS* (October 3, 1892 - November 1959) was born in CHARLESTON the son of MR. and MRS. JOHN C. BONDURANT. He spent forty-five years in the service of U. S. hospitals. He was survived by his wife, MARGARET RANSOM BONDURANT and two sons, DR. JOHN C. BONDURANT and DONALD BONDURANT.

(N) *BONDURANT, MARY J.* (March 16, 1857 - November 1, 1929) was the daughter of DAVID BAKER. She married DR. A. A. BONDURANT. She was survived by DR. FLINT BONDURANT, MISS VELA BONDURANT, LONNIE BONDURANT, MRS. J. W. BRANSFORD, SIMPSON BONDURANT, and MRS. CARL F. SHUMAKER, all children.

(N) *BOONE, A. R.* (March 24, 1868 - October 10, 1945) was a son of FELTON BOONE of CLINTON, KENTUCKY. In 1896 he moved to CHARLESTON. He served two terms as STATE REPRESENTATIVE and for twelve years was county treasurer and later served as county superintendent of schools.

(N) *BOONE, MRS. AGNES W.* (May 12, 1829 - December



31, 1908) was born AGNES W. ALLOWAY in WILSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE. At the age of eighteen she married W. F. BOONE. In 1852 they moved to CLINTON, KENTUCKY, then in 1895 moved to CHARLESTON. They had thirteen children, ten of whom survived her; THOMAS L., B. A., WILLIAM F., SALLIE HICKS, J. J., J. A., A. R., MRS. J. E. BOWERS, and MISS KATE E. BOONE.

(N) *BOONE, JAMES A.* (January 3, 1853 - October 18, 1942) was born in CLINTON, KENTUCKY. He first came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY as a teacher of the DORENA SCHOOL. When his parents, MR. and MRS. W. F. BOONE moved to CHARLESTON he moved there and opened a law office. Surviving were a sister, MISS KATHERINE BOONE and brothers — A. R. BOONE, JOHN BOONE, JOE BOONE AND TOM BOONE.

(N) *BOONE, KATHERINE "MISS KATE"* (April 25, 1871 - 1969) was born at CLINTON, KENTUCKY, the youngest child of JUDGE and MRS. WILLIAM FENTON BOONE. Her great-great grandfather, BRYANT BOONE, was a brother of DANIEL BOONE. With her family she moved to CHARLESTON in 1893. She began voice studies at the age of sixteen, and gave voice and piano lessons for eighty-two years.

(N) *BOYCE, ROXIE MATTINGLY* (August 29, 1890 - July 2, 1918) was married to LAWRENCE E. BOYCE.

(N) *BRADLEY, JUDGE E. FRANKHAM* ( 1847? - October 1892) was killed when his mule overturned his cart. He held the office of JUDGE of the COUNTY COURT, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE and SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP.

(N) *BREWER, HAWKINS* ( ? - August 24, 1880) died in LONG PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

(N) *BREWER, T. BEN.* (March 23, 1870 - March 14, 1928) was born near BERTRAND and for twenty-five years was a druggist in CHARLESTON. He was survived by his wife, one son, GRINSTEAD BREWER, and one brother, G. D. BREWER of BERTRAND.

(N) *BRIDGES, GEORGE HARDIN* (September 15, 1850 - June 27, 1928) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in the PINHOOK area and at the time of his death was the oldest living native born citizen of the county. In 1873 he married DORA PATTERSON (December 5, 1855 - 1933) who, with one son, DR. JAMES P. BRIDGES survived him and one grandson, GEORGE BETHUNE BRIDGES.

(N) *BRIDGES, JAMES H.* (July 23, 1824 - September 26, 1879) was born in SHELBY COUNTY, KENTUCKY and when he was about fourteen years of age came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He was married March 17, 1847, to MISS LAETITIA B. SIMMS. He was a member of the CITY COUNCIL.

(N) *BRIDWELL, DR. I. H.* ( 1835 - November 28, 1901).

(N) *BROWN, E. L. SR.* (April 10, 1845 - December 15, 1926) was born near HAW'S CHAPEL. In 1870 he married CLEOPATRA LANE of ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS. They had four children, of whom one survived him, E. LINDSAY BROWN. In June of 1879 he married JULIA SIMON of ILLINOIS and they had two children. His widow and two sons, ALPHIE S. BROWN and ELBERT BROWN, survived him.

(N) *BROWN, FRANCIS M.* (December 25, 1811 - April 10, 1895) was born in PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, the son of FRANCIS M., SR. and ELLEN H. BROWN. His father was a native of PHILADELPHIA and his mother was born near CORK, IRELAND. In 1832 he came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and made a permanent settlement, his father having settled here in 1826. The family's first house was a log hut, rudely built in which they lived for several years. From 1850 to 1853 he kept a store and boardinghouse in CHARLESTON, after which he moved to a farm. At the time of his death he owned seven hundred acres of land. He was married four times. He first married JULIA SWEETEN on January 1, 1835, by whom he had six children only two of whom survived him; E. L. and MARY E. (MRS. JACOB DAVID, of CINCINNATI). His second wife was MARY SHEPPARD. His third wife was ELIZA SMITH, and his last wife was EMILY WHITE, daughter of THOMAS WHITE of TENNESSEE. He died at his home in TEXAS BEND at the age of eighty-three.

(N) *BROWN, HENRY MORTON* (November 14, 1867 - April 1948) was the son of JAMES M. BROWN and LAURA SAYERS BROWN. He married MAYME McELMURRY (October 20, 1876 - February 24, 1951), daughter of HENRY and MINNIE MAYBEE McELMURRY. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, MRS. WILSON HARRIS and MRS. MAX OSTNER, JR.

(N) *BROWN, JUDGE JAMES M.* (August 10, 1834 - September 3, 1897) was JUDGE of the PROBATE COURT for several years. He was also engaged in real estate and insurance business. In 1860 he married LAURA A. SAYERS. He was survived by his wife, a daughter, MRS. JOHN (ANNA) A. KIMMEL, and a son, HENRY MORTON BROWN.

(N) *BROWN, MARY ELIZABETH* ( 1862? - April 8, 1903) was born in GERMANY.

(N) *BROWNING, FRED* (January 28, 1862 - ? ) was born at ROANOKE, NEW YORK. He came to CHARLESTON in March of 1889 and engaged in the photographic business for several years. He was appointed JUSTICE OF THE PEACE in 1906 and in 1908 was elected for a four year term to the same office. In 1909 he became CHARLESTON'S first POLICE JUDGE.

(N) *BRYANT, THOMAS* ( 1815? - January 24, 1885) died near BERTRAND.

(N) *BRYANT, W. C.* (December 6, 1858 - December 30, 1935) founded the *W. C. BRYANT MERCANTILE CO.* in CHARLESTON. He married *FANNIE SWANK* (1868 - June 15, 1926), daughter of *JAMES* and *RACHEL SWANK*. *MRS. BRYANT* was survived by her husband and two sons, *ERNEST E.* and *HARRY T.*

(N) *BURKE, "GRANDMA"* ( 1807? - July 1903) was the mother of *MRS. ELIZABETH LUTZ*.

(N) *BURNS, GEORGE C.* (November 15, 1845 - May 10, 1930) was born in LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK and came to CHARLESTON in 1868. He was the youngest of seven children of *OWEN* and *CATHERINE (COWEY) BURNS*. He married *MARY E. MUSHOLD* in 1876 and they had four children. He was married a second time to *MABEL MASSEY*. He was survived by two daughters; *MISS ELIZABETH BURNS* and *MRS. J. H. EDELEN* of *PARSONS, KANSAS*, and two sons, *WILLIAM A.* and *EDWARD J.*

(N) *BUSH, WILLIAM H.* (September 1, 1826 - December 1891) died at BERTRAND where he had lived for fifty years. He was married three times and had nine children, only four of whom survived him.

(HN) *BYRD, JAMES L.* (August 1869 - May 4, 1940) was born in CHARLESTON the son of *THOMAS H. BYRD*. He was educated at *VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY* in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. He opened a retain lumber yard at CHARLESTON under the name of the *JAMES L. BYRD LUMBER COMPANY*. On December 5, 1894, he married *LUCY HUNTER* (March 29, 1874 - September 27, 1942), the daughter of *BEN FRANKLIN* and *NANCY EMILY BIRD HUNTER*. Their children were, *JAMES LANIER, JR.* and *THOMAS ALBERT*.

*BYRD, JAMES LANIER* (1896 - ) was born in CHARLESTON, the son of *JAMES LANIER* and *LUCY NANCY HUNTER BYRD*. He went to school at Central College and then graduated from the University of Missouri. In 1923 he married *LUCILE FRISBY* and they have a son, *JIMMIE*. They still reside in Charleston.

*BYRD, THOMAS HAYWARD* (1840 - 1874) married *MARY ELIZABETH MOORE* (1847 - March 1916) and they had three children; *JAMES LANIER* (1869 - 1940), who married *LUCY HUNTER* (1874 - 1942) in 1894, *SUSAN ELIZABETH* (1871 - ) who married *H. L. REID* in 1895, and then *ALFRED F. SMITH* in 1942 and *THOMAS JOSEPH* (1874 - 1899) who married *BELLE HOWLETT* in 1897.

(H) *BYRD, THOMAS ALBERT* (December 16, 1899 - ) is the son of *JAMES LANIER* and *LUCY NANCY HUNTER BYRD*. He was educated at *WESTERN MILITARY ACADEMY* at ALTON, ILLINOIS. On June 2, 1930, he married *HELEN SWAYNE* of *HICKMAN, KENTUCKY*, and they had

two sons; THOMAS SWAYNE and HUGH HUNTER. He is now retired from the lumber business.

(N) *BYRNE, MRS. EMMA ALLEN* ( ? - November 4, 1939) was born in MEADE COUNTY, KENTUCKY and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1878. She married J. D. BYRNE in January of 1891. Surviving were her husband and two sons, ROBERT B. and HUNTER V.

(N) *BYRNE, FRANCIS X.* ( 1815 - September 1, 1883) was born in MEADE COUNTY, KENTUCKY and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1858 with his family. He died near GREENFIELD'S LANDING and was buried in TEXAS BEND CEMETERY.

(N) *CARTER, MRS. C. M.* (nee Sims) ( 1837? - March 23, 1897) was born in ROCKING COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. She was married to JAMES W. CARTER and they had four children; J. F., WILLIAM L., G. M. and ROBERT R. She had lived in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY nineteen years.

(N) *CHANDLER, MRS. JULIA* ( ? - April 18, 1884) was the wife of WILLIAM R. CHANDLER. They moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1871 from MASSAC COUNTY, ILLINOIS. She was the first person buried at the then new ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY.

(N) *CHAPMAN, DR. A. W.* (January 28, 1857 - September 12, 1936) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He attended school in LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, and ST. LOUIS. He married MISS ROSE ROSENSTEIN around 1898. He was survived by his wife and two children, MISS HELEN and WILLIS CHAPMAN. Another daughter NAOMI, preceded him in death.

(N) *CHAPMAN, "UNCLE" WILLIS M.* (April 21, 1822 - April 1895 or 1896) was born in OHIO COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1849 and settled in the CONCORD COMMUNITY. In 1856 he married ANN MARY MARTIN (1834 - 1866) and they had three boys and one daughter. He was buried in the CONCORD CEMETERY. Only DR. A. W. CHAPMAN survived him.

*CHAPMAN, WILLIS* (May 10, 1899 - 1946) was survived by his wife, the former NADINE HUNTER, one daughter, MRS. TRAVIS WADE SHELBY, JR. and one sister, HELEN CHAPMAN.

(N) *CLACK, T. J.* (July 20, 1867 - ? ) was president of the CLACK DRY GOODS and CLOTHING COMPANY which in 1909 was located on the corner of Main and Commercial in the Kenrick Building. He was born on a farm in SIMPSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, the son of MR. and MRS. T. B. CLACK. He came to CHARLESTON in 1889 and for five years was employed by G. B. STOTTS. In 1895 he went into business for himself. In 1894 he married MISS ELGIA HOWLETT, daughter of MR. and MRS. FRANK HOWLETT.



## CLARKSON FAMILY

The CLARKSONS were pioneers. The founder of the family was WILLIAM CLARKSON, who was a landowner in FAYETTE COUNTY, then VIRGINIA in 1782. His origination was either ENGLAND or one of the older counties of VIRGINIA. His brothers, JOHN and JOSEPH were in HENRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, at that time but they all went to MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, where we find them in 1795. WILLIAM married (POLLY or MARY) MARTIN in 1798 and with his brothers bought land and were farmers there.

About 1820, WILLIAM and his family moved to DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, where he bought ninety-six acres of land on an island in the OHIO RIVER in 1823.

His son JABEZ, born in 1801, in MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, married CYNTHIA SMALL of DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY. They had children JOHN, JAMES, MARY, FRANCES, WARNER, and JABEZ. In 1833 JABEZ and family, along with his sister FRANCES and husband WILLIAM KENNEDY, JOSEPH DYSON, and JOHN and SALLY KENNEDY and children, WILLIAM, JOSEPH and DYSON, came down the OHIO RIVER on a flat boat to BIRD'S POINT. JABEZ located on the prairie north of where CHARLESTON now stands, was a farmer and had 1,200 acres at his death. He was married the second time to MANICA SHEPHERD, daughter of ISAAC SHEPHERD of CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY after CYNTHIA died in 1840. They had children MARGARET, HENRY, ISAAC TAYLOR, JESSIE and MONICA. JABEZ died in 1858.

JAMES D. was born in DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, August 22, 1828, and died in September of 1892. He was the son of JABEZ CLARKSON and CYNTHIA SMALL. He was five when he came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He was a farmer and pioneer who did a great deal for the county. In 1863, he married FANNIE, daughter of HANSFORD and MARTHA (RANDOLPH) ROUSE. They were the parents of nine children, three surviving to adulthood, GEORGIA R. (MRS. J. L. OGILVIE), LOTA M. (MRS. KARL MARSHALL) (September 2, 1885 - 1960) and NORA M. (MRS. GEORGE F. DEWEY).

Another son of JABEZ'S, ISAAC TAYLOR CLARKSON, was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY November 12, 1848. He was the son of JABEZ and MANICA (SHEPHERD) CLARKSON. He was elected clerk of the CIRCUIT COURT in 1886. He also served as city clerk for one term and city councilman for several terms. On August 27, 1877, he married JENNIE ROUSE, daughter of HANSFORD and MARTHA (RANDOLPH) ROUSE, of HENDERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY. JENNIE was the sister of FANNIE, wife of ISAAC'S half brother JAMES. JENNIE was a direct descendant of LOUIS ROUSE, who served in the VIRGINIA MILITIA

and NATHANIEL RANDOLPH, who was purchasing agent for GENERAL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK in the REVOLUTIONARY WAR. JENNIE and ISAAC had four surviving children, JULIA (MRS. MAHLEN POULTER), WELLA (MRS. HENRY GAINES), JABEZ, married to ETHEL SLAGLE, and FRANK TAYLOR CLARKSON, married to BERTHA DRURY. ISAAC died in 1906 and JENNIE married JAMES N. SLAGLE of ZALMA, MISSOURI. She died in 1914.

FRANK TAYLOR CLARKSON was born December 4, 1882, at CHARLESTON, MISSOURI. He married BERTHA MELINDA DRURY of BLOOMSDALE, MISSOURI. She was born June 14, 1883, and was the daughter of JULES and JOHANNA MARY (HIPES) DRURY. She died January 20, 1969, at ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. They had two children — VIRGINIA DRUETTA (MRS. WALLER E. SPRAGUE) and KARL TAYLOR CLARKSON.

FRANK was married a second time to ISABELLE MARGARET LIVINGSTON, from POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI in 1938. She died in 1964 and he died at the age of eighty-nine at SIKESTON, MISSOURI. He was a farmer and clerk of the CIRCUIT COURT of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He spent many years as a railroad employee.

FRANK is survived by his son, KARL TAYLOR CLARKSON of LA MESA, CALIFORNIA. He married BILLA NADENE JONES of ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, in 1940. He is a veteran of PATTON'S THIRD ARMY in WORLD WAR II. He was a salesman in the automotive field most of his life.

The CLARKSON line with the CLARKSON name stops with him as there are no children of either ISAAC or JAMES descendants with the CLARKSON name. (Information furnished by Karl Clarkson, 5805 Severin Drive, La Mesa, California)

(N) CLEVIDENCE, MRS. ELIZABETH ( 1824? - March 1889) was the mother of JOHN CLEVIDENCE of BIG LAKE and ROBERT CLEVIDENCE of WOLF ISLAND and mother-in-law of E. C. LOONEY.

(N) CLEVIDENCE, J. L. ( 1878 - ? ) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY, son of ROBERT and AMANDA CLEVIDENCE. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1882. In 1906 he married BESSIE HAWKINS and they had two sons.

(N) CLIFFORD, HARRY ( 1884? - August 4, 1879) died at FUGATE'S STATION.

(N) COCHRAN, H.S. ( 1870 - ? ) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He was elected county collector of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1906 and was re-elected in 1910. He married MAMIE CRENSHAW and they had two daughters, MARGARET and MAMIE LEE.

(N) CONYERS, JAMES ( 1846? - March 28, 1881) was a

deputy sheriff.

(N) *COOPER, JOHN M.* (March 4, 1814 - July 31, 1886) was a native of IRELAND, born near BELFAST, who emigrated to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY at the age of seventeen. He was for a number of years land agent for the ST. LOUIS IRON MOUNTAIN and SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

(N) *COURTWAY, JOSEPH* ( ? - August 13, 1879)

*COX, J. BETH* (January 14, 1863 - 1935) was born at CALVERT CITY, KENTUCKY, and came to CHARLESTON in 1888 to build a barn for ALEC BOGARD in the CONCORD community. He started the elevator at BELMONT in 1889 and finished it in 1890. He married ALICE BARRY, niece of MR. BOGARD in January of 1890. He later built the RUSSELL & DEAL block for J. J. RUSSELL and the DEFIELD block and RUSSELL block in EAST PRAIRIE from 1905 to 1906. He was superintendent of building the RUSSELL HOTEL and CHARLESTON. All of his work was by the hour as he was too high in bidding. He would figure the cost plus 25% as builders do now. He and his wife had three children who died in infancy and a daughter, EUNICE, who married DEE JENNINGS. (Information furnished by Mrs. Dee Jennings, Charleston, Missouri.)

#### **CRENSHAW FAMILY**

JAMES CRENSAW was a Revolutionary War soldier who migrated from LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, to BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY in the late 1700's with his family. His six children were: MARTHA, JOEL, OVERTON, COSBY, NELSON, and BLUFORD. COSBY CRENSHAW'S children later migrated to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI. They were: RICHARD (1804 - 1837) who married MARY JAMES (POLLY) MOORE (1803 - 1859); GRANDISON (1805 - 1878) who married JUDITH BRIDWELL (1816 - 1884); and CATHERINE (KITTY) (1809 - 1880) who married CHARLES W. MOORE (1814 - 1878).

JOSEPH COSBY (1830 - 1898) the son of RICHARD AND MARY MOORE CRENSHAW married MARTHA BRIDWELL (1832 - 1876) and they had nine children: JAMES, RICHARD, ISAC ALBERT, MARY ELIZABETH, CHARLES S., HENRY MELVIN, MARVIN BRIDWELL, FANNY JOE, and JOSEPH.

MARY ELIZABETH (1861 - 1935) the daughter of RICHARD and MARY MOORE CRENSHAW married EDWIN P. DEAL (1859 - 1946) and their children were: HENRY; NELLIE ANDERSON (1883 - 1970) who married BUCKNER RAGSDALE (1880 - 1970) the parents of MARY SUE BIHR; ALMA LOIS; IDA BRIDWELL; MARION; and EDNA.

MARVIN BRIDWELL (1867 - 1934) the son of RICHARD and MARY MOORE CRENSHAW married LIZZIE CUMLEY (1871 - 1952) and their children were: COSBY

PERRY; MARTHA R.; CHARLES EARNEST; and MARVIN RICHARD (1907 - ) who married ELISABETH WRIGHT (1910 - ) the parents of MELVIN LOREN and MARVIN RICHARD, JR.

JOSEPH (1874 - 1935) the son of RICHARD and MARY MOORE CRENSHAW married LELA FINLEY (1884 - ) and their children were: HENRY, who married VIRGINIA HAWKS; BRIDWELL who married MAXINE COLLINS; and MARY LELA who married CARL HOUGH.

COSBY PERRY (1890 - 1932) the son of MARVIN and LIZZIE CUMLEY CRENSHAW married ELLA MARTIN (1892 - 1972) and their children were: LOIS ELLEN who married OLLIEN DEWITT HARPER; MARVIN VERNON; and HAROLD MARSHALL.

The children of OLLIEN DEWITT and LOIS CRENSHAW HARPER are: ANNETTE, FRANCES, DIXIE JEAN, MARTHA, SHARON, GALEN DEWITT, MARGARET, and CHARLES WHALEN. (Information supplied by Marvin Richard "Dick" Crenshaw).

(N) CULLISON, MAY (October 13, 1877 - April 1939) was the daughter of JUDGE and MRS. W. T. MARSHALL. She was married to JAMES CULLISON. She was survived by her husband and a son, DR. JAMES CULLISON, JR.

(N) CUMMINS, HENRY G. ( ? - February 1883) was born in DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1838.

(N) DALTON, "UNCLE" THOMAS J. (May 6, 1843 - January 13, 1917) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of JOHN and LOUISIANA MATHEWS DALTON. On September 27, 1866, he married LAURA J. GRIGSBY ( ? - 1869). In 1869 he married MARY J. CHAPMAN. He was survived by three sons; ED, OTTO and GUY and two daughters, MRS. LAURA LLOYD and MRS. ORA WALLACE.

(N) DANFORTH, L. D. (December 15, 1851 - March 15, 1921) was born near CHARLESTON. He was survived by his wife, the former MARGARET COCKE, and two sons, JAMES A. of TEXARKANA, TEXAS, and DOUGLAS of CHARLESTON, and one daughter, MRS. FRANK FARR of PORTLAND, OREGON. Three brothers A. H., L. W. and R. C. preceded him in death.

(MN) DANFORTH, JUDGE LEWIS W. (June 10, 1837 - January 29, 1917) was born in HENDERSON, KENTUCKY the son of LEANDER F., a native of NEW YORK and JANE W. JONES DANFORTH, a VIRGINIAN. He grew up in the town of his birth and received a good education. His father was in the marble business and until he was twenty-two he worked with him. In 1859 the family moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, and settled on a farm. He stayed there until 1862 when he moved to CHARLESTON. On September 25, 1861, he



married MISS MARY J. YATES, who died in May of 1914. To this union were born ten children, of whom six survived him; MRS. H. L. KENNISON (NETTIE) of PORTLAND, OREGON, GEORGE W. DANFORTH, MISS GRACE DANFORTH, MRS. OTIS W. JOSLYN (AUGUSTA), HENRY A. DANFORTH and MRS. W. V. MATTINGLY (EMMA). FLORENCE GLOVER, another daughter preceded him in death. After moving to CHARLESTON he embarked in the marble business and was later associated with his brother, A. H., in the mercantile business at Main and Commercial Streets where the BREWER DRUG STORE now stands. He later was associated with his son, H. A., in the lumber business. His interest in civic and political matters brought him into public life and in 1882 he was elected to the general assembly and re-elected in 1884. While serving as representative of the county MR. DANFORTH was chairman of the swamp lands committee. In the county he filled the offices of collector, deputy sheriff and coroner. At different times he was mayor of CHARLESTON and served in all about twelve years in that capacity. He was later a member of the city council and then presiding judge of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He served nine years as school director and was for four years a member of the board of regents of the SOUTHEASTERN NORMAL SCHOOL of CAPE GIRARDEAU. He was a large property owner in CHARLESTON having thirty or more houses which he rented.

(N) *DANFORTH, WILLIAM H.* (1870? - December 24, 1955) was born in CHARLESTON. He graduated from WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY in 1892 and began his business career in ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. He started with the ROBINSON-DANFORTH CO. in 1894. Their mill produced horse and mule fodder. In 1932 he became board chairman of the RALSTON-PURINA CO., manufacturers of animal foods and breakfast cereals. In 1955 it had a total value in excess of \$30,000,000. He gave the ground for the present library building in CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, and the money to build the original building. He was also a benefactor to numerous churches, colleges and universities. He and his wife gave money for thirteen chapels in many parts of the county. He was survived by his wife, the former ADDA BUSH, one son, DONALD, and one daughter, MRS. RANDOLPH P. COMPTON.

(N) *DANIELS, MRS. SAMUEL P.* ( ? - April 13, 1881) died in WOLF ISLAND TOWNSHIP. She was the sister of MRS. MILES I. HOWLETT of the CONCORD area.

(N) *DAVIS, CLARENCE M.* ( ? 1869 - ? ) was born in UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He was educated at the LEXINGTON MILITARY ACADEMY and KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in March of 1897. He served as county treasurer 1902 - 1906, county clerk in 1906, and was re-elected in 1910.

(N) *DAVIS, JOHN C.* (October 9, 1848 - January 26, 1886) died at FISH LAKE settlement. He was the son-in-law of JUDGE DANIEL L. LOFLIN of CHARLESTON. He was born in CHARLESTON. He was the brother of ROBERT N. DAVIS of BIG LAKE and MRS. LEWIS MARTIN of PRICE'S LANDING.

(N) *DEAL, EDWIN JERE* (July 25, 1890 - ) married MATTIE TROXELL, who was born April 30, 1891, and they had three children; JERRY, GEORGE and FRANCES who married NICHOLAS J. CHEPER III. MR. & MRS. DEAL live in COLUMBIA, MISSOURI.

(N) *DEAL, EDWIN JEREMIAH, SR.* (January 24, 1863 - April 24, 1935) was born at NEW OXFORD, ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, son of JEREMIAH WORTHINGTON DEAL and ISABEL (ALFRIGHT) DEAL. He moved to CHARLESTON in 1884 and taught school for a while. He studied law with J. J. RUSSELL. He married MATTIE BRIDWELL (November 18, 1867 - 1949). He was survived by his wife and five sons, E. J. DEAL, JR., HARMON, R. R., DON, and NELSON. He died at CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI.

(N) *DEAL or DIEHL, EDWIN P.* (August 20, 1832 - 1908) was born in ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. He married EMMA BROWNWELL on August 19, 1862, and they had five children; ALICE (MRS. E. A. SWANK), ELLA E. (MRS. J. J. PARKER), JESSIE (MRS. C. A. DIEHL), PAULINE (MRS. E. A. COWDEN), and HOWARD BROWNWELL DIEHL. He was the son of PETER DIEHL who died April 13, 1887, at the age of eighty-four. EDWIN was wounded November 5, 1864, at CHARLESTON during the CIVIL WAR. He died at OLATHE, KANSAS.

(N) *DEAL, EDWIN PETER* (April 19, 1859 - 1946) was born in CHARLESTON, the son of HENRY J. and MELVINA DEAL. He entered PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG, in 1874. He married MARY CRENSHAW (1861 - 1935) in September of 1879. He served as collector of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and in 1906 was elected a member of the legislature and re-elected in 1908 and 1910. His eldest daughter, NELL, married W. B. RAGSDALE in November of 1909. Another daughter, MISS IDA, died in 1973.

(N) *DEAL, GEORGE* (February 24, 1750 - July 28, 1804)

(N) *DEAL or DIEHL, COL. HENRY J.* (December 1, 1829 - November 18, 1891) was born in OXFORD, PENNSYLVANIA, the son of PETER, who died in 1887, and MARY (SMYSER) DIEHL. He went west in 1850 and worked for a time on the steamboat, "PIKE NO. 2". While he was living in PADUCAH, KENTUCKY, in 1854, a sign painter spelled his name DEAL instead of DIEHL and he remarked, "The shorter the quicker", and assumed that spelling. DIEHLSTADT in SCOTT COUNTY was settled by JOHN KIRKPATRICK but early GERMAN

immigrants named it after COL. DEAL and retained the GERMAN spelling. He married MELVINA WALTERS (October 18, 1839 - March 9, 1892), the daughter of HARDIN B. and MARY R. (LOCKE) WALTERS on March 6, 1854. COL. and MRS. DEAL moved to CHARLESTON in 1856. For several years he was a contractor in ditching and building levees and later was contractor for the building of the CAIRO and FULTON RAILROAD. A brother, ANDREW, who was born around 1831 in PENNSYLVANIA died in KENTUCKY around 1892. HENRY J. and MELVINA had six sons, two of whom were still living in 1886; EDWIN P. and JOHN D. DEAL, state senator from the district that was later to become MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from 1864 - 1868 and state representative in 1881 and 1885.

(N) *DEAL OR DIEHL, JEREMIAH W.* (June 26, 1828 - 1905) was born in ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. He married ISABELLA E. ALBRIGHT. He was survived by his wife and the following children: WILLIAM H., MERVIN S., IDA K. (MRS. JAMES ROSS), MISS ANNA, EDWIN JERE, S. MAY (MRS. F. D. BLOCKER), AMBER L. (MRS. C. C. BREAM), and LAURA A. (MRS. G. M. DIFFENDERFER).

(N) *DEAL, JOHN DANIEL* (July 29, 1870 - September 22, 1904) married ELLA GOODIN (August 20, 1883 - February 9, 1972), the daughter of MR. and MRS. ALBERT GOODIN I. He was survived by his wife, a daughter, MRS. HARVEY (MARY) DRAKE and her two daughters, MARY ELLA, wife of Major-General JOHN WAGGENER, and PEGGY, wife of WILLIAM McNEARY.

(N) *DEFIELD, D. E.* ( ? - January 22, 1918) was a native of CANADA, but resided in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY for many years. He was survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters; C. S. DEFIELD, E. D. DEFIELD, MRS. WILLIAM A. WYATT, MRS. J. F. CAMP and MRS. DEISINGER.

(N) *DEFIELD, C. S.* (January 20, 1874 - February 3, 1923) was born in BRIDGMAN, MICHIGAN. When he was fourteen his parents moved to KENTUCKY and the following year to SCOTT COUNTY, MISSOURI. In January of 1894 he married ANNIE WEBB and they settled in the WYATT community. Here he conducted a lumber business and did a profitable trade for several years. In 1902 he moved to EAST PRAIRIE and continued for seven years in the same line of work and also farmed. When the FARMERS' BANK was organized he was one of its chief promoters and a principal stockholder. He was at that time one of the richest men in EAST PRAIRIE. He and his wife had seven children; EMIL, CLYDE, TED, ELDRED, WEBB, TRESSA, DOROTHY, and ROWENA who died as an infant.

(N) *DEVER, JOHN L.* (March 8, 1860 - November 1929 or 1930) was born in SARATOGA, KENTUCKY, and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1880. He married ANNIE STEINBRAKER (February 1, 1868 - 1933). He was survived by his

wife, a half brother, ROY DEVER, and a half sister, MRS. JAMES MOON.

(N) DOYLE, R. A. was born in TENNESSEE and came to EAST PRAIRIE in 1886. In 1892 he graduated from the ST. LOUIS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

(N) DRANE, MARK A. (April 27, 1855 - 1919) was born in KENTUCKY and came to MISSOURI in 1875. He married a daughter of MR. and MRS. SAM OGILVIE. MRS. DRANE was born October 26, 1857, and died January, 1948, and was survived by a daughter, MRS. GARLAND NOLAND and two sons, BERT H. AND HARRY J.

### **DRINKWATER FAMILY**

WILLIAM MARSHALL DRINKWATER and his wife CATHERINE RYAN DRINKWATER came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI about 1870. They came by boat from PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA to GREENFIELD LANDING in the northern part of the county where later there was a ferry boat across the MISSISSIPPI RIVER to the foot of 28th Street in CAIRO, ILLINOIS.

The river was their highway, they did business in CAIRO, ILLINOIS, bought their supplies there, did their banking and got their mail there and subscribed to the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER. It was a long time before they were oriented to a ST. LOUIS paper, shipping grain and livestock by river packet from THOMPSON'S LANDING and to CHARLESTON ten miles by dirt road.

WILLIAM (1835 - 1877) and CATHERINE (1835 - 1883) DRINKWATER brought to MISSOURI their four children; JOHN PERRY, FLORENCE PHOEBE, ALBERT CASPER, and ARTHUR J. A son, CLARENCE, was born in MISSOURI and lived only nine years (1870 - 1879).

JOHN PERRY DRINKWATER (1858 - 1901) married SARAH WEATHERHOLT and had a son, CLARENCE PERRY (1889 - 1965) and a son, ELMO, who died in infancy. He married NANNIE ADAMS and had a daughter, CLARA (1897 - ), who married WILLIAM NEWNAM, and SHIRLEY, who died in infancy.

FLORENCE (1861 - 1909) married CHARLES A. GOODIN and they had three children who lived to adulthood. WILLIAM LEE GOODIN (1886 - 1961) married NELL FOGHEY and their son GEORGE ALBERT GOODIN died as a child, KATHRYN LOUELLEN (1888 - 1961) who married DR. C. IVAN BURFORD and HERBERT VEST GOODIN (1890-1940) who married MABLE SLACK. They lived in DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

ALBERT CASPER DRINKWATER (1864 - 1942) married MAUD STERETT (1877 - 1952). Their children are: GENEVA HALLIDAY (1897 - ); ERCELL BONDURANT (1900 - 1964) who married GERALDINE TURNER and had one



son JOHN ALBERT DRINKWATER (1938 - 1960); MABEL FLORENCE (1901 - ); ANNIE ALBERTA (1903 - ) who married WILLIS W. MARSHALL, their son W. W. MARSHALL, JR. married ANN SUSAN BACON and they have four children SUSAN BALLOU, GEORGE CALVIN, ELIZABETH ANN and LAURA HAYLE; and ALBERT C. DRINKWATER, JR. (1905 - ) who married MIRIAM McCUTCHEN, their daughter DIANA married MICHAL HOKE HALL and they have three children, BENJAMIN ALBERT, MICHAL WALKER and MIRIAM KATHERINE. Their son ALBERT C. DRINKWATER III married JUNE FINLEY and they have a son, JOHN ALBERT DRINKWATER II.

ARTHUR J. DRINKWATER (1866 - 1952) married LULU SICKMAN, EFFIE NELLIS and GRACE DRINKWATER and the children by his last marriage are: VIVIAN IRENE (1901 - 1945) who married E. HAROLD SMITH and their daughter STELLA GRACE married COL. S. B. HARDWICK and their children are ROBERT, MICHAEL, JILL and JOHN, and CARL WYATT. ARTHUR J. DRINKWATER, JR. (1903 - ) who married GRACE WHITEHEAD; VIRGINIA DARE DRINKWATER (1907 - ) who married ALBERT MATTINGLY whose son ARTHUR HERMAN MATTINGLY married DORIS MILLER and they have two daughters, ALLISON VIRGINIA and CARRIE. VIRGINIA DARE DRINKWATER married ELBERT FINLEY THOMPSON; and DOROTHY GRACE DRINKWATER (1911 - ) married A. A. CERVANTES, JR. and had two children: A. A. CERVANTES III who married MARJORIE FICKLIN and they have three children: A. A. IV, KAREN and JOHN DRINKWATER FICKLIN CERVANTES, and CYNTHIA who married KIETH LARSEN and they have a daughter, AMY, and JAMES CRAWFORD DRAKE whose son is JAMES HARVEY DRAKE. (Information supplied by: Dr. Geneva Drinkwater, 203 East Lyman Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.)

(N) *DUCKES, BEN M.* ( 1818? - November 13, 1894) was a resident of CHARLESTON for forty years.

(N) *EDWARDS, J. E.* ( ? - December 1901) died at EAST PRAIRIE. He was buried in the W. O. W. Cemetery of that city.

(N) *ELDRIDGE, SAMUEL* ( ? - August 26, 1879)

(N) *ELKIN, E. G.* ( 1845? - October 14, 1933) was city marshall of CHARLESTON for many years. He died at the home of his son, GARRETT ELKIN.

(N) *FALKOFF, J. M.* ( 1872 - April 30, 1928) was born in LITHUNIA. In 1899 he established himself in business in EAST PRAIRIE. He was survived by two sons, SIMON and ISRAEL, and one daughter, ROSA F. FALKOFF.

(N) *FARIS, JOHN C.* (1830 - November 22, 1907) came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY as a young man and was a county official for thirty-five years. In 1853 he married MARTHA E. KERR of KENTUCKY. They were the parents of nine children.

(N) *FASSETT, MRS. CHARLOTTE ISABELLE* (February 11, 1854 - March 21, 1936) moved to CHARLESTON in 1889 and lived there all of her life. She married E. S. FASSETT on November 7, 1882. She was survived by three children; HERBERT, MISS TERRESSA FASSETT and MRS. LILLIAN MARTIN.

(N) *FINLEY, HOWARD L.* (February 15, 1891 - 1960) was born at BERTRAND, the son of HENRY L. and RACHEL FRANCES FINLEY. He went to school in CHARLESTON and to BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN COLLEGE in ALABAMA. He travelled extensively and returned to EAST PRAIRIE in 1954. On October 6, 1954, he married MRS. ANNIE ROBERTS, who survived him.

(N) *FINLEY, DR. L. E.* ( 1852? - January 7, 1902) was at ANNISTON for a time and then came to CHARLESTON to practice. His wife and seven children survived him.

(N) *FINLEY, DR. F. L.* ( 1880 - ? ) was born in MARSHALL COUNTY, KANSAS. He graduated from KENTUCKY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE in 1903. He practiced one year in BERTRAND and then moved to ANNISTON.

(N) *FISHER, C. H.* ( 1852 - ? ) was born in WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, the son of HERMAN J. and ELIZA FISHER. He came to MISSOURI in 1858 and to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1882. He was an employee of the IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD. After coming to BELMONT in 1890 he engaged in the mercantile business and was appointed postmaster. He married CAROLINE M. COONES in 1880. They had three daughters.

(M) *FLETCHER, WILLIAM ALEXANDER* (September 6, 1843 - ? ) was the son of ALEXANDER FLETCHER and the father of DOUGLAS EDGAR FLETCHER. He was born in what is now MADISON COUNTY, MISSOURI, and became a farmer and member of Company E, Forty-seventh Missouri Infantry, and was on duty at PILOT KNOB and in other skirmishes in IRON COUNTY. After his return he figured prominently in the business life of his community, had large land interests, was the owner of a fine home in ARCADIA, and filled some public offices. He served as county sheriff and collector of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, when the two offices were held by one man, and became county clerk in 1886. In 1876 he married SADIE F. RINGO, of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, whose people were very extensive landowners of that county and were also prominent in public affairs.

(N) *FOWLER, MRS. NANCY* ( 1837? - September 24, 1883) died at DOGWOOD RIDGE.

(N) FOX, MRS. INEZ (nee RUSHING) ( 1872? - January 21, 1903)

(N) GARWOOD, W. B. "BUCK" (April 18, 1859 - 1931) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY to the CONCORD area in 1882. In 1883 he married SALLIE BOGARD to which union nine children were born. He was survived by his wife and four sons and two daughters; EZEKIA, FRANK, BESSIE, CORDIA, EVERETT, and ANCIL.

(N) GATY, ROBERT PRICE (December 24, 1859 - July 3, 1928) was born near BERTRAND. In 1887 he married JULIA ELIZA (July 3, 1869 - April 1940) and they had two sons and two daughters. He was survived by his wife and children; JOHN R. GATY, W. MORAY GATY, MRS. ALBERT J. (MAUDE) RUSHING and MRS. L. L. (ILEENE) VOELKER.

(N) GLOVER, MRS. FLORENCE DANFORTH (December 10, 1876 - June 6, 1902) died at the home of her parents, MR. and MRS. L. W. DANFORTH.

(N) GOLDER, DR. SOLOMON D. (December 23, 1823 - December 9, 1883) was born in DUCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK. He graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF IOWA. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1852 as probably the first doctor. He had at least two children, J. E. and MACK.

GOLDER, MACK (March 12, 1855 - February 20, 1917) helped GEORGE MARTIN to start a paper, *The Enterprise*. A short time later he opened a news stand and book store which burned in 1885. After that he acted as a reporter for the newspapers of CHARLESTON.

(N) GOLIGHTLY, JAMES W. ( 1820? - July 1903).

GOODIN, ALBERT VERNON (October 17, 1839 - January 16, 1896) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. On August 17, 1870, he married SUSAN ANN MOORE (July 10, 1851 - March 22, 1936), daughter of JAMES L. MOORE and MARY JANE CHALFANT MOORE. To this union six children were born, one of whom died in infancy. Their children were: MARY JANE (1873 - 1943) who married DR. ROBERT MANN (1868 - 1931); ALBERT VERNON (1876 - 1952) who married FANNIE COX (1886 - ? ) in 1907; ANNIE PARROTT (1880 - 1884); ELLA MINNIE (1883 - ? ) who married JOHN D. DEAL (1870 - 1904) in 1902; and SUSAN MYRTLE (1889 - ) who married DR. DAVID ENGLISH SMITH (1889 - 1944) in 1919.

GOODIN, ALBERT VERNON (1876 - 1952) was sent to NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, and attended the public schools there. In 1895 he returned to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY to manage the family farms. In 1907 he married FANNIE B. COX of NASHVILLE. Their children were: MYRTLE, wife of G. WYNN SMITH, JR. who had one son, GEORGE WYNN SMITH III; ALBERT VERNON who married VIRGINIA

WHITEHEAD and whose children are ALBERT, JOHN, LESTER and LEE; SAM COX who married JANE MULKEY and whose children are DOROTHY ANN, wife of CHARLES BRINK, and MYRTLE, wife of BRUCE AUSTIN; ANN who married R. Q. BROWN, JR. and whose children are SUZANNE BAILEY, MYRTLE and ROGER Q. He served on the board of the Methodist Church for many years, was a fifty year Mason, vice-president of the Mississippi County Bank, vice-president of the W. C. Bryant Mercantile Co., was on the board of the Charleston Bank, and was a board member of one of the levee districts.

(N) *GOODIN, FRANKLIN S.* (September 8, 1829 - December 1, 1892) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, the son of JOHN and CATHERINE A. GOODIN. He moved with his parents to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1836. When he was nineteen his father died and he took over management of their farm. In 1857 he married SALLIE HARNED who lived only three years after their marriage. In 1865 he married JENNIE E. HAW (August 10, 1843 - October 2, 1923), daughter of REV. URIEL and CATHERINE A. HAW. They had six children. One son, FRANKLIN GOODIN JR. died in 1937. JOHN H. married FANNIE WILLEY, ALICE (March 13, 1875 - 1941) married FRANK STERRETT. Another son, VERNON, survived his parents.

(N) *GOODIN, CHARLES A.* ( 1855? - March 22, 1893) died in CHARLESTON. He was sheriff of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and left a wife and three children.

(N) *GOODIN, JACOB S.* (March 23, 1828 - July 17, 1902) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and had resided in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY since 1835. In 1857 he married ELIZA E. SWANK, daughter of JOHN SWANK. Two children survived him, ARTHUR S. and WILLIAM O., who was judge of the county court for twelve years.

(N) *GOODIN, OLIVER F.* (March 15, 1862 - July 20, 1924) was born in WACO, TEXAS. On September 14, 1892, he married FLORENCE McDONAUGH (April 6, 1862 - August 29, 1936) who was born in BATH, ENGLAND. They moved to CHARLESTON from BLODGETT in 1903. He served as director in the CHARLESTON BANK. He was survived by his wife, one daughter, MRS. HAROLD M. LEWIS, and three sons, OLIVER, CHARLES A. and W. RUSSELL.

(D) *GRAHAM, MRS. CLARA EDWARDS* (May 27, 1858 - 1954) was born in SALINE COUNTY on her father's farm. She was married in SALINE COUNTY, MISSOURI, on April 30, 1880, to PROFESSOR E. R. GRAHAM, then in charge of BONNE TERRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

MRS. GRAHAM was the mother of two children: MILDRED VIRGINIA ( ? - 1956), who married DR. J. K. THROWER, of LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA; and ROBERT



EDWARDS, who died in 1902.

(N) GRANT, H. B. ( 1832 - December 22, 1896) died at BUCKEYE. He was born in ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1887. He was president of the GRANT LUMBER COMPANY.

(N) GREER, MRS. GEMIMA ( 1829? - August 23, 1893) died at BERTRAND. She left four children; MRS. W. W. GATY, MRS. T. E. STRICKLAND, LUTHER and H. D. GREER.

(N) GRIGSBY, AARON L. ( 1840? - August 15, 1883).

(N) GRIGSBY, A. W. (May 4, 1819 - March 2, 1908) was born in OHIO COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY April 17, 1848. He married RACHEL ROWE in February of 1848.

(N) GRISSOM, WILLIAM H. ( 1879 - ? ) was born in BERTRAND, MISSOURI. He graduated from the LEBANON LAW SCHOOL in TENNESSEE in 1910. He went to EAST PRAIRIE to practice law.

(N) GUTHRIE, J. H. (February 18, 1828 - December 13, 1906) came to MISSOURI in 1858. He married MARGARET A. BUSH in 1858. He was born in MADISON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

(N) GWALTNEY, SOLOMON (November 21, 1846 - July 25, 1915) was born at NEWTON, OHIO, and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in the early 1800's. On August 22, 1875, he married FANNIE M. YANDELL (August 22, 1853 - June 21, 1930) of SYCUSBURG, KENTUCKY. To this union seven children were born, four of whom with his wife survived him; MRS. WILLIAM (NAOMI) BREWER, THOMAS W. GWALTNEY, JOHN M. GWALTNEY and WILLIAM S. GWALTNEY.

(N) HALBROOK, ALBERT (July 21, 1887 - 1966) was the son of GEORGE and LOTTIE KALFUS HALBROOK. On May 11, 1911, he married EMMA SWINGLE. He was survived by his wife and one daughter, MRS. CLACK GOLLADAY, one foster daughter, MRS. WILLIAM SIEVERT, and one sister, MRS. W. W. BLEDSOE.

(N) HALE, MRS. VINA (October 13, 1837 - January 27, 1897) died at RUSH'S RIDGE.

(N) HANCOCK, HENRY (April 17, 1839 - March 26, 1928) was born in HENDERSON, KENTUCKY and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1856. During the CIVIL WAR he served for four years in Company E Eighth Missouri Cavalry, C. S. A. In 1856 he married RUTH CUMMINS who preceded him in death.

(RN) HANDY, JUDGE NOAH (July 6, 1804 - April 31, 1881) was born in SUMMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND. On January 27, 1827, he married RACHEL R. GOSLEE, and in 1835 they came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, and

settled on a farm. Through the kindness of JOSEPH MOORE, who had been in the county some years, he procured a log house. The floors were made of "puncheons", and the beds were made upon scaffolding attached to the wall. During the summer, Judge Handy purchased seven hundred acres of land, and in the fall moved to LOUISVILLE to spend the winter. He returned to MATTHEW'S PRAIRIE in the spring and began to improve more land he had purchased. He built a good house in the county, at what was then considered great expense, and soon had a magnificently improved farm of one thousand acres, which he called "Woodlawn". In 1840 he was elected one of the judges of the county court, and served in that capacity for twelve years. He was chairman of the first railroad meeting held in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He had only one child, a daughter, who married JOSEPH C. MOORE. In 1870 he gave up his farm to his daughter and son-in-law, and moved to CHARLESTON. He married again in 1875. He was buried at the family cemetery on the farm of JOSEPH C. MOORE.

(N) *HARPER, HANNAH THOMPSON* (September 23, 1886 - December 24, 1930) was survived by her husband FRED HARPER and one son, NORMAN.

(N) *HARRIS, D. E.* (August 14, 1826 - March 19, 1895) was a resident of BIRD'S POINT. He was born in TENNESSEE.

(N) *HARRISON, GEORGE WASHINGTON* (July 7, 1822 - May 1909) was born in JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1852. He was married on January 27, 1847.

(N) *HART, JOHN* (June 12, 1836 - ? ) was born in PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. He came to MISSOURI June 12, 1865.

*HAW, JOSEPH LINDSAY* (March 26, 1836 - January 5, 1910) was the son of REV. URIEL and ELIZABETH MOORE HAW. He married MARY ANN VERNON (1839 - 1893) in 1861 and they had the following children: ELLA (1863 - ) who married PEERS TAYLOR; ANNA LOU (1865 - 1942); MARVIN T. (1867 - 1942) who married NELLIE McSPADDEN (1872 - ) in 1894; JULIA COLE (1870 - ) who married JOE MOORE in 1894; URIEL PIERCE (1872 - 1942) who married MABLE HUNTER in 1901; LAURA WHIGHTMAN (1874 - ) who married DR. WILLIAM WESTCOTT in 1900; EMMA VERNON (1876 - 1960) who married ARTHUR PEEL in 1906; JAMES MOORE HAW (1878 - 1958) who married MARY ALBERTA SMITH (1883 - ) in 1904; JOSEPH LINDSEY HAW (1881 - 1940) who married IONE DENTON in 1915; and ALBERTA LEWIS (1884 - ) who married MURRAY QUINN TANNER in 1906.

(N) *HAW, JAMES MOORE, SR.* (December 18, 1878 - April 24, 1958) was born in CHARLESTON the son of DR. JOSEPH LINDSAY HAW and MARY ANN VERNON HAW. He moved

to FARMINGTON, MISSOURI, with his parents in 1882. MR. HAW was educated in the public schools and at CARLETON COLLEGE in FARMINGTON. He graduated from the law department of the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI in June, 1901, and located in CHARLESTON to practice law. In 1904 he married MARY A. SMITH, daughter of JAMES W. SMITH. He served two terms as city attorney of CHARLESTON and served as president of the CHARLESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION for nine years. He also served as Clerk of the Probate Court. He moved by appointment to the office of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney on January 1, 1905, and served in that office through 1908. He was appointed Prosecuting Attorney in 1908 and afterwards was elected to the office serving until 1915. He was appointed Judge of the Probate Court in 1953 and was elected to the office in 1955 until he resigned because of health in January of 1958. He was survived by his wife, one son, JAMES MOORE HAW, JR., born August 1, 1906, and two daughters, MRS. R. A. KLEMP and MRS. K. L. RUSSELL.

(N) HAY, LOWERY ( 1838? - February 20, 1896) was postmaster of CHARLESTON for four years. He was survived by a wife and one daughter, MRS. BUD SLACK, four sons and one brother.

HEARNES, WARREN E. was born July 24, 1923, the youngest of five children of MRS. EDNA MAE EASTMAN HEARNES and EARLE B. HEARNES of CHARLESTON. He was educated in the CHARLESTON public schools and was graduated from the UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT, NEW YORK, in 1946, with a B. S. degree, and from the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA, in 1952 with A. B. and LL.B. degrees. During World War II, he was an enlisted man in Headquarters Company, 140th Infantry, 35th Division, 77th Anti-Aircraft, AWSP. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry of the regular army June 4, 1946, and advanced to first lieutenant December 12, 1947. He was retired December 31, 1949. Following his retirement, he was elected to the state legislature. He began the practice of law in EAST PRAIRIE in 1952, continuing through 1961. He was elected to the House of Representatives from MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1950, the youngest man at the time ever elected state representative from that county. Reelected in 1952, 1954, 1956 and 1958, he was elected majority floor leader in 1957 and 1959. He became the 30th Secretary of State of MISSOURI January 9, 1961, and was elected GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI November 3, 1964. On January 11, 1965, he was inaugurated as the state's 46th chief executive. Following adoption of a constitutional amendment permitting governors to serve two consecutive four-year terms, he was reelected November 5, 1968, with more than sixth per cent of the popular vote, and was inaugurated January 13, 1969. In 1948, he married MISS BETTY

SUE COOPER, daughter of REV. & MRS. A. B. COOPER. They have three daughters — LYNN, LEIGH, and JULIA B. MR. AND MRS. HEARNES now reside in CHARLESTON. (Information from Missouri State Manual.)

### HEGGIE FAMILY

ARCHIBALD HEGGIE (April 23, 1811 - December 25, 1888) and NANCY HEGGIE (October 19, 1820 - April 25, 1900), the daughter of MARTHA LEE (PATSY) and JOHN LOVE had three children: JAMES, an infant, died in 1836; JOHN THOMAS born in 1837; and MARTHA AYERS born in 1839.

JOHN T. HEGGIE (September 24, 1837 - May 5, 1923) and MARY RUSHING (December 3, 1841 - December 31, 1924), daughter of MAHALN ASHCROFT, were married May 31, 1860, and had the following children: SUSAN (LOLA) (June 13, 1861 - February 1936) who married S. L. LOVELACE; MATTIE (March 16, 1863 - January 28, 1951) who married an OLIVER; RICHARD A. (January 23, 1866 - April 13, 1947); ROBERT L. (June 9, 1868 - October 1933) who married ALICE DELINE; LILLIE M. (July 5, 1870 - November 22, 1947) who married L. F. WALTEIMATE; a child who died at birth; FANNIE M. (August 1873 - February 4, 1898); MOLLIE (MARY ELLEN) (February 8, 1876 - ) who married CHARLES E. FRENCH; JOHN P. (August 20, 1878 - January 18, 1951) who married LILLIAN CONNELLY; ARTHUR who died at the age of one; BESS (February 20, 1883 - March 7, 1970) who married JOHN MULKEY; and EULA (February 22, 1885 - October 11, 1968) who married O. C. BURROUGHS.

JOHN P. HEGGIE who married LILLIAN CONNELLY had five daughters: MARY who married E. CHARLES ROLWING; VIRGINIA who married FRANK S. HILL; JONNIE who married CLIFFORD G. MEHLER; RUTH ELLEN; and MARTHA. (Information supplied by Ruth Ellen Heggie, Charleston, Missouri.)

(N) HEQUEMBOURG, CHARLES (June 25, 1883 - 1961) was the son of FRANK H. and ADA BEDFORD HEQUEMBOURG. He served as County Assessor for several years. He was survived by his wife, CORRINE, whom he married April 27, 1904, three sons, FRANK, HENRI and CHARLES W. and four daughters, MRS. J. D. LUNSFORD, MRS. HAROLD GREEN, MRS. CARL MYERS, JR. and MRS. PHIL ATTEBERRY.

(N) HEQUEMBOURG, ADA BEDFORD. (August 3, 1863 - March 1944) was the daughter of MR. and MRS. ALFRED BEDFORD. She married FRANK HEQUEMBOURG who died April 6, 1924. She was survived by four sons; CHARLES W., FRANK D., McELROY B. and ALBERT C.

(N) HEQUEMBOURG, FRANK, JR. (April 8, 1887 - 1964) was the son of MR. and MRS. FRANK HEQUEMBOURG, SR. He was survived by his wife, MAE, a son, DOUGLAS, and two daughters, MRS. SID JOHNSON and



MRS. LLOYD BARKER. In his early days he ran a bus line between CHARLESTON and the southern end of the county. Then he became game warden. He worked at the job because he loved his work. His home place on North Sixth Street reflected his love of the outdoors. His pond was stocked with all manner of fish, frogs, turtles and even snakes. At one time he played host to an alligator. No one was ever surprised at any living creatures found on the place. At one time he had at least one shrub, bush, flower and three of every species native to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY growing on his place.

(N) *HESS, FERDINAND JAMES* ( ? - December 27, 1928) was born in TRENTON, TENNESSEE, the son of DR. NELSON I. and CATHERINE (HILL) HESS. He came to MISSOURI in 1875 and settled near WOLF ISLAND. From 1898 - 1902 he represented the county in the MISSOURI LEGISLATURE. He was judge of the county court at one time. On January 15, 1902, he married PRICE EMMA FARIS and they had two children, JACK and FERD. He was the brother of DR. J. H. HESS.

(N) *HIBBITTS, JOHN L.* (January 16, 1854 - April 18, 1933) was born at KNOB LICK and came to CHARLESTON around 1888. He worked for the IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROAD until he resigned to enter the transfer business with a step-son, SCOTT McELMURRY. His first wife, MINNIE McELMURRY, died around 1908 and he later married her sister, DOLLY MAYBEE. He was survived by his children, WILLIAM MAYBEE and MRS. WALLACE McINTYRE.

(N) *HIBBITTS, MRS. J. L.* (November 25, 1858 - October 10, 1902) on December 14, 1874, married THOMAS S. McELMURRY, who died April 1, 1886. They had two children, MRS. H. M. BROWN and SCOTT McELMURRY. She was married to J. L. HIBBITTS in January of 1890. Three children were born, EDNA, WILLIAM and MAYBEE.

(N) *HINES, W. L.* (November 26, 1864 - ? ) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1898 and in 1905 established a post office at DIRK.

(N) *HOLLAND, MRS. DEMASIOUS* ( 1833? - January 22, 1893) moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, at the close of the CIVIL WAR. Two sons and one daughter survived her.

(N) *HOLLOWAY, WILLIAM* (November 14, 1869 - April 1948) was born in MILBURN, KENTUCKY. He came to CHARLESTON with his parents at the age of four. He was the owner of the HOLLOWAY COTTON and GRAIN CO. He was survived by his wife, MRS. WILLIAM SWANK HOLLOWAY.

(N) *HOWLETT, JOHN L.* (October 25, 1836 - March 28, 1909) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSOURI in 1858 and on June 2, 1859, married ELIZABETH LEE (June 4, 1835 - March 2, 1885), daughter of

WILLIAM T. LEE, MRS. HOWLETT was survived by three children, STERLING P., LUKE and JOHN L., JR.

(N) *HOWLETT, FRANK* (January 24, 1841 - December 1920) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1864. He married REBECCA JANE LEE on July 4, 1865. They had eight children, three of whom survived him, MRS. SCOTT ALEXANDER, MRS. T. J. CLACK, and MRS. C. C. TERRELL.

(N) *HOWLETT, MILES* (April 28, 1843 - November 29, 1907) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1867 and was married to SUSIE MARTIN at WOLF ISLAND on February 14, 1868. Six children were born; LEONARD, FRANK, JOE, RUBY THOMPSON, OSA PRUETT, and MYRTLE WELKER.

(H) *HUNTER, CATHERINE* (December 25, 1824 - March 27, 1885) was the daughter of ABRAHAM and SARAH OGDEN HUNTER. She first married AMERICUS PRICE, but they had no children. On October 18, 1844, she married MARMADUKE BECKWITH. He and his father, NEWMAN, and several brothers had settled in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI around 1811 or 1812. Their children were: AMANDA HUNTER, JUDITH ANN, RICHARD A., THOMAS B. and YANCY.

(H) *HUNTER, THOMAS* (May 17, 1808 - July 1, 1863) was the son of JOSEPH and KATHERINE PHILLIPS HUNTER. He was in the Confederate Army during the CIVIL WAR and was wounded in the BATTLE OF BELMONT, and during the remainder of the war went with his brother, ABRAHAM, to MISSISSIPPI to the home of another brother, MILFORD. A stone on O'BRYAN'S RIDGE in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, about a half mile from the MISSISSIPPI RIVER levee, marks their resting place. Two of their daughters are buried in the isolated cemetery. On December 18, 1830, he married ELIZA MYERS of BENTON, MISSOURI. Their children were; HANNAH and SARAH ANN who died in infancy, MARGARET ELIZABETH, NANNY CATHERINE, LAVINA, WILLIAM, and MARY "MOLLIE" ELIZA.

(H) *HUNTER, BEN F.* ( ? - ? ) married MARY ELIZA BIRD (January 26, 1838 - February 1862) of BIRD'S POINT, MISSOURI, in April of 1860. They had a son, JOHN ABRAHAM, who died while attending school in CHARLESTON. (February 4, 1862 - January 30, 1875.) On April 23, 1867, he married NANCY EMILY BIRD a sister of his first wife (October 16, 1840 - February 10, 1922). They had five children; MARY BIRD, CLARA CATHERINE, STEPHEN BEN, LUCY NANCY, SARAH "SALLIE" INGABO.

(H) *HUNTER, ALBERT B.* (May 8, 1855 - March 25, 1930) was the son of SAMUEL and MARY LEWIS HUNTER. He married ELLA LESIEUR PACK on December 18, 1857, and they had three children: DAVID RILEY who married DELLA

BOLTON; NADINE who married WILLIE CHAPMAN; and HENRY CLAY (1881 - 1948) who married JESSIE SENICOE. The children of DAVID and DELLA were: NADINE, MARTHA ELLA, and ELMO. NADINE and WILLIS had one daughter, HELEN. HELEN married TRAVIS SHELBY and they have four daughters: DEBRA, SUSAN, BARBARA, and MARY TRAVIS.

(N) *HUSK, MATILDA* (October 21, 1810 - April 14, 1849) was the wife of JAMES HUSK.

(N) *HUTCHESON, JOHN VESTEL* (November 3, 1855 - January 31, 1941) was born in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. He married LEE ANNE OWENS at CAIRO, ILLINOIS, August 28, 1890. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1869 and helped build the Cottonbelt railroad in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He was survived by his wife and one half brother, HARVEY HUTCHESON, and the following children: three sons, EM-MITT, RAYMOND, CLINT, and six daughters, MRS. C. A. DEPOYSTER, MRS. C. A. KUNZ, MRS. WALTER FIELDS, MRS. JACK WILLIAMS, MRS. HUNTER BYRNE and MRS. G. A. BONIFIELD.

(N) *HUTSON, GEORGE W.* ( ? - November 1885) was a pioneer of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY.

(N) *JACKSON, J. J.* ( 1828? - February 13, 1881) died near EAST PRAIRIE.

(D) *JAMES, M. T.* (June 1, 1877 - 1883) was born in CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, the son of H. C. JAMES and ALICE COURTWAY JAMES. His father had in his youth inherited from his mother a farm near CHARLESTON. He was the sole heir and his guardians sent him to school at STE. GENEVIEVE. When he attained his majority he sold his farm and went into the saloon business, which he followed until his death. He had two children, BEULAH and M. T. JAMES.

(N) *JECKO, T. J.* ( ? - ? ) came from AL SAISE and settled in ST. LOUIS in 1824. He moved to CHARLESTON before 1858 and built the house which stood where a Recreation Parlor was later built. His daughter, CLARA JECKO RUSSELL, was born in a house where the Buckner-Ragsdale Store now stands.

(N) *JONES, SANFORD GREEN* ("SAM") (October 10, 1863 - April 12, 1945) died in the WOOL RIDGE community. He was born in TRIGG COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY around 1895.

(M) *JOSLYN, OTIS* (August 5, 1835 - August 1914) was born in NEW HAMPSHIRE, and there engaged in the lumber business until 1869, when he moved to PORT HURON, MICHIGAN. In 1889 he came to MISSOURI and built the plant of the WARD LUMBER CO. at WHITING in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, remaining a resident of MISSOURI until 1899, when he returned to MICHIGAN. He married SARAH JANE LIBBY,



who was born at SACO, MAINE, January 16, 1842. OTIS W. JOSLYN, son of OTIS and SARAH LIBBY JOSLYN, was born in SACO, MAINE, September 14, 1869.

(M) *JOSLYN, OTIS WILBRA* (September 14, 1869 - January 8, 1949) was born in SACO, MAINE, the son of OTIS and SARAH LIBBY JOSLYN. Prior to this time, however, the family home had been established in MICHIGAN and he became an alumnus of the PORT HURON high school while later he spent two years as a student in the UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN at ANN ARBOR. Following the completion of his education he devoted seven years to the lumber business in association with his father, but was drawn to a professional career and became a law student under E. J. DEAL and JOSEPH J. RUSSELL, being admitted to the bar before receiving his BACHELOR of LAWS degree from the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI in 1898. He began practice in CHARLESTON, where he for some time was the senior partner in the firm of JOSLYN & BOONE and later with his son in the firm of JOSLYN & JOSLYN. At one time he served as chairman of the county central committee and in 1932 was recalled to that office. From 1905 until 1909 he served as prosecuting attorney of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and afterward was city attorney. He was a member of the board of alderman and from 1913 to 1917 was mayor of CHARLESTON. For twenty years he served as a member of the CHARLESTON school board. He married AUGUSTA N. DANFORTH. He was survived by two sons, OTIS W. and L. D., and four daughters, MRS. CLYDE SHEPARD, MRS. E. M. SPARLING, MRS. GEORGE D. ROGERS, and MRS. GARLAND RUSSELL.

(D) *JOSLYN, CLARENCE L.* (April 10, 1877 - ? ) was born at PORT HURON, MICHIGAN to OTIS and SARAH (LIBBY) JOSLYN. OTIS JOSLYN was a native of NEW HAMPSHIRE, born at SOUTH LYNDBORO, August 5, 1835. He was educated in his home town, where also he learned the lumber trade. In the course of his business he went to BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, where he engaged in the flour and feed business. There he met SARAH, who was born January 16, 1842, at SACO, MAINE. They were married in 1865. Their children were: OTIS W., born September 14, 1869; CLARENCE L.; BERTHA; and FRED L. In 1869 OTIS JOSLYN SR., moved to PORT HURON, MICHIGAN, and in 1889 he located in WHITING, MISSOURI, and remained there ten years. He built the sawmill in WHITING which was known as the WARD LUMBER COMPANY. In 1899 he went to SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

CLARENCE L. JOSLYN, JR., attended school at PORT HURON, MICHIGAN, where he passed the first fourteen years of his life. He then accompanied his parents to WHITING and for the ensuing six years was in the employ of the WARD



LUMBER COMPANY. In the month of January, 1898, he accepted a position with the ST. LOUIS SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY at CAMPBELL, MISSOURI and the following year, he was moved to MALDEN, MISSOURI, where he worked as cashier and agent until 1905 when he was promoted to the position of traveling auditor for the railway company. On November 15, 1907, he married MISS INEZ SQUIRES. Her parents were RICHARD H. and MARGARET (KING) SQUIRES, of MALDEN, MISSOURI. MR. and MRS. JOSLYN had two children, a boy, HAROLD LEES, and a daughter, ELEANOR, born September 13, 1908.

(M) *JOSLYN, LEWIS DANFORTH* (November 14, 1907 - ) is the youngest of six children of OTIS W. and AUGUSTA DANFORTH JOSLYN. He attended school in CHARLESTON and then entered the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI where he won his BACHELOR OF ARTS and BACHELOR OF LAWS degrees. In his practice he was first associated with his father. In 1937 he married MARGARET GALLUP of WATERLOO, IOWA. MRS. JOSLYN graduated from MILLS COLLEGE in SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, and prior to her marriage was a teacher in STEPHENS COLLEGE and in the public schools of MOREHOUSE, MISSOURI. MR. JOSLYN was a member of the MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES from 1935 to 1939, prosecuting attorney of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from 1941-1942, was senator from the 33rd district from 1941-1948, circuit judge from 1948-1949 and a member of the State Democratic Committee. They have two children, WALLACE DANFORTH and ANN LESE. He and his wife reside in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and he still practices law in CHARLESTON.

#### KENNEDY FAMILY

WILLIAM KENNEDY married FRANCES CLARKSON (1806 - 1847) in DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY in 1824. They came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1833 along with the JABEZ CLARKSON family. Their children were: JOHN D. (1828 - 1858) who married MARTHA ANN SHEPPARD; NANCY JANE (1831 - 1883) who married THOMAS SCOTT MCELMURRY; SARAH FRANCES (1837 - 1899) who married ABSALOM MCELMURRY; AMANDA G. (1840 - ) who married THOMAS HARRISON; MARTHA E. (1843 - ) who married DR. HENRY L. PETRIE. After WILLIAM'S death FRANCES married O. S. SIMMONS in 1849.

JOHN D. KENNEDY and MARTHA ANN had two children: JOHN WILLIAM (1853 - 1919) and JAMES BAILEY (1857 - 1903). When JOHN D. KENNEDY died MARTHA took her two small sons, aged three and seven, to EDNA, TEXAS, to live with her brothers, the SHEPPARDS. As young men JOHN WILLIAM KENNEDY and JAMES BAILEY KENNEDY went on cattle drives from EDNA, TEXAS, to DODGE CITY and

ABILENE, KANSAS. On their way back from the drives they would occasionally visit their aunts in CHARLESTON, AUNT SALLY (SARAH) MCELMURRY, and AUNT NANCY MCELMURRY. Consequently JAMES married and settled in MISSOURI, but JOHN W. married and lived in EDNA, TEXAS. JOHN D. lived to be thirty-one years of age. He was a farmer by trade.

NANCY JANE KENNEDY and THOMAS MCELMURRY had five children: MARY, THOMAS SCOTT, MARGARET, SALLY and WILLIAM. She died in CHARLESTON at the age of fifty-five and was buried at the OAK GROVE CEMETERY.

SARAH FRANCES KENNEDY and ABSALOM MCELMURRY married in 1853 and had one child, HENRY SCOTT.

JOHN WILLIAM KENNEDY (1853 - 1919) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and married ANNA LEE GISLER in 1885 in JACKSON COUNTY, TEXAS. Their children were: SALLY MARTHA (1887 - 1919); JAMES CARL (1888 - 1961); OBED BYRON (1890 - 1961); ANNA MABLE (1893 - ); JOHN HUBERT (1895 - 1958); EARL JACOB (1897 - 1970); and ALBERT LUTHER (1899 - ).

EARL JACOB KENNEDY (1897 - 1970) married BERTHA ZOOK KENNEDY in 1919. Their children were all born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and were: ALBERT E. (1921 - ) who married ILENE RUSSELL; EARL CRAIG (1923 - ) who married LORENA ROEDIGER; LA WANDA JEAN (1927 - ) who married GEORGE A. RUSSELL; BETTY MABEL (1930 - ) who married JAMES TRUE (deceased) and then HARRY NORMAN; BERRY GARNER (1933 - ) who married AMARIE THOMPSON; JERRY ROOSEVELT (1933 - ) who married YVONNE WOODRUFF; LARRY PARKS (1933 - 1933); NANCY JANE (1936 - ) who married CHARLES MOORE.

JAMES BAILEY KENNEDY (1857 - 1903) was born and died in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He married CLARA GRAY and they had no children. His second marriage was to ELIZABETH HARRIET LEE. Their children were: JAMES GORDON (1889 - 1918) who married BERTHA MAY ZOOK; WILLIAM ARTHUR (1892 - 1958) who married EFFIE BARBRE; ISAAC TAYLOR (1895 - 1918) who married GLADYS ISHAMAEL.

JAMES GORDON KENNEDY and BERTHA MAY ZOOK were married in 1910 in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. Their children were: ROY LEE (1912 - ) who married MADGE WILSON; and DOSS WILLIAM (1915 - ) who married ESTHER STUEVE. (Information furnished by Mrs. Harry Norman, Route 2, Bloomfield, Missouri 63825).

(N) *KENRICK, GEORGE W.* (June 17, 1818 - June 20,

1894) was born in COUNTY WEXFORD, IRELAND, one of two children born to WILLIAM and FANNIE (WHITE) KENRICK, both of whom were natives of IRELAND. He was reared in IRELAND and learned the carpenter's trade. In 1842 he married EMILY WALKER and in that year they took passage at LIVERPOOL for AMERICA. In 1844 he moved to BIRD'S POINT, MISSOURI, where he resided about one year. Soon after he bought a trading boat and engaged in merchandising on the OHIO RIVER, going down the MISSISSIPPI below MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. He made two trips which took him two years, after which he located his boat at CAIRO, ILLINOIS. Three years later he returned to BIRD'S POINT where he engaged in merchandising and hotel keeping. He also served as postmaster. In 1862 he moved to CHARLESTON. He served as postmaster of CHARLESTON, justice of the peace, lieutenant of the state militia, city alderman, and was mayor of the city several terms. His first wife died in 1850. In 1851 he married MARY RODNEY (1831? - 1885) by whom he had five children, four of whom survived him: GEORGE ( - 1912), ALBERT (September 12, 1873 - April 24, 1924), MRS. EMMA WILSON, and MRS. FRANK E. BURROUGH. BENJAMIN ( - 1886) preceded him in death. At the time of his death he was president of the MISSISSIPPI COUNTY BANK and a wealthy man.

(N) *KENRICK, WILLIAM* (1840? - October 21, 1902) was the father of BEN P. KENRICK and the half brother of GEORGE and ALBERT KENRICK.

(N) *KING, J. O.* (1864? - June 30, 1941) served three terms as sheriff. He moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from KENTUCKY in 1888. He was survived by five daughters and one son.

(N) *KIRKPATRICK, CHARLES ELBERT* (January 9, 1871 - June 1956) was born in SCOTT COUNTY, MISSOURI, the son of JOHN and NANCY J. KIRKPATRICK. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1895. On July 2, 1908, he married KATHERINE STEINBRENNER and they had two children. He later married ETHEL SPARKS and they had one daughter. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for more than fifty years. He served as city clerk, circuit clerk, mayor, and was police judge of CHARLESTON at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, MRS. CATHERINE EDWARDS and MRS. RAY BRYAN.

(N) *LAIR, FRANK DAVID* (June 4, 1869 - November 3, 1945) was born in SHELBYNA, the son of MR. and MRS. JACOB LAIR. He owned furniture stores at CHARLESTON and SIKESTON. He married LELA BELLE ROWE who survived him along with three sons, FRANK D. LAIR, JR., WESLEY and JOHN J. and one daughter, MRS. HERMAN L. MATTINGLY, JR.

(N) *LA MONTAGUE, LOUIS* ( ? - January 28, 1896)

(N) *LANE, MRS. MAGGIE A.* ( 1847? - September 23,



1881) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and was a daughter of MRS. SALLIE SWANK and a sister of WILLIAM P. SWANK, MRS. THOMAS BECKWITH, MRS. DR. SIMPSON, MRS. JACOB S. GOODIN and MRS. QUINCY JOHN-SON.

(N) *LANGSTON, CHARLES C.* ( ? - September 1, 1881) died at BERTRAND.

(N) *LANGSTON, LEONARD* (January 30, 1824 - March 22, 1880) was born in the state of NORTH CAROLINA. He died at his home near BERTRAND.

(N) *LEE, MILES T.* (May 28, 1833 - September 8, 1915) was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSOURI March 26, 1846. He married ELIZABETH GREENWELL in September, 1850, and she died in 1881. Two children preceded MR. LEE in death. When he was nine years old his parents moved in a flat boat to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He was the only child. He was the son of JAMES and SALLIE LEE, and the grandson of HARRY and JACK LEE, lineal descendants of the LEES of VIRGINIA. On March 10, 1899, MR. LEE married GENIA HENDERSON. MILES T. LEE, JR. was their only child.

(N) *LEE, CLAY* ( 1869? - August 2, 1924) was born near LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY. He came to CHARLESTON at the age of twenty. He was survived by his wife, formerly EMMA FRANK, two brothers and two sisters.

(N) *LEE, DAVID F.* ( 1866 - ? ) was born at WOLF ISLAND, the son of MR. and MRS. JOHN LEE. He, with his brother, was reared by his uncle and aunt, MR. and MRS. MILES T. LEE. MR. LEE'S education, besides the county schools, was received at a private school at ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY and at the Male and Female Institute at BARDSTOWN, NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He returned to WOLF ISLAND in 1883 and farmed. He was elected justice of the peace of his township, and also as clerk of the school board of his district. In 1906 he was appointed county judge of the second district to fill out the unexpired term of JUDGE J. K. THROWER, who died. He then served two terms in the same office. In the early 1900's he moved to CHARLESTON and in 1912 was elected COUNTY TREASURER.

(N) *LEE, WALTER LEONARD* (July 23, 1866 - August 1940) was born at PRICE'S LANDING. He married ABBESS ELIZABETH BUTLER (October 25, 1875 - November , 1942), daughter of LEWIS BUTLER. Their son, ROSS HERRINGTON LEE, died in 1924 as the result of an accident. He served two terms as county collector. He was survived by his wife and a foster son, ARTHUR LEE GOODIN.

(N) *LEE, WILLIAM GOODIN* (November 12, 1858 - February 23, 1933) was born in SCOTT COUNTY, son of



LEONARD and LOUISA M. LEE. He came to CHARLESTON about 1870. Besides him there were three other children; BELLE, WALTER L. and JOHN. Their father died when WILLIAM was three months old.

(N) *LINDSAY, JOHN W.* (March 13, 1842 - May 28, 1897) married SONORA TAYLOR in 1872 and they had four children. He was president of the MISSISSIPPI COUNTY BANK. He was survived by his children; JOHN W., SONORA, THOMAS, and LUCILLE.

(N) *LOEBE, DR. CONRAD* (November 27, 1827 - March 10, 1897) was born in GERMANY. He landed in NEW YORK in 1851 and went to CINCINNATI, OHIO. He was married February 26, 1854, in NEWPORT, KENTUCKY and then moved to HAVANNA, ILLINOIS. He went to NEW ORLEANS, then to ST. LOUIS and afterward to CAIRO, ILLINOIS, in 1860 and shortly after entered the UNION ARMY as a surgeon under GENERAL MCCORMICK. In December of 1867 he moved with his wife and five children to CHARLESTON where he followed the occupation of barber and later the drug business.

(N) *LOEBE, SIMON P.* (October 16, 1869 - April 15, 1949) was born in CAIRO, and was married to the former AMANDA JANE PRATT in 1892. After moving to CHARLESTON he had a varied career. When the first fire company was organized August 15, 1892, MR. LOEBE was appointed fire chief by MAYOR L. W. DANFORTH. He also served as MISSOURI PACIFIC freight agent and operated LOEBE'S OPERA HOUSE for many years. He built a new theatre in 1902 on the corner of Main and Cypress, later occupied by a service station, and operated it until 1914, when he sold it to American Photoplay Theatres. He served briefly as mayor of CHARLESTON and was editor and publisher of THE ENTERPRISE-COURIER until 1935. He was the first president of the FIRST SECURITY STATE BANK when it was chartered February 6, 1930, and held that position until his death. He was survived by three daughters; MILDRED PUTNAM, MARY STORY and DOROTHY EVANS.

(N) *LOFLIN, MRS. D. L.* ( 1834 - February 14, 1883) was born in MARSHALL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and moved with her husband to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1860.

(N) *LOVE, CHARLES R.* (September 21, 1873 - November 30, 1930) was born in CAMDEN, BENTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE and moved, with his parents to BERTRAND, MISSOURI, at the age of two, at which place his father, WILLIAM S. LOVE, was engaged in the general mercantile and grain business until his death in 1906. His mother died when he was but a few months old. MR. LOVE'S primary education was received in the public schools of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He afterwards attended BELLEVUE COLLEGE, CALEDONIA, and CENTRAL COLLEGE, FAYETTE, MISSOURI, and then

taking a law course from the VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY at NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. After receiving his diploma and given a license to practice law, he returned to CHARLESTON in 1896 and continued to live there until the time of his death. He was survived by his wife, MRS. MABEL LOVE ( ? - August 1936), a daughter, MISS ELLEN, and a son, WILLIAM.

(N) LOVE, DR. WILLIAM S. ( 1883 - July 17, 1941) was born at the old LOVE home at BERTRAND the son of WILLIAM and SARAH E. LOVE. His father was born in NORTH CAROLINA and located in BERTRAND in 1873. In 1908 he married ADDIE LEO MCCALL of FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE. One son survived him, WILLIAM SPENCER LOVE.

(N) LUSK, DR. W. H. ( ? - 1920) was survived by his wife, who died in 1940, and one son, EARL.

(N) LUTZ, IGNATIUS (November 27, 1832 - May 8, 1897) was born in (WEICHER EDENKOHEN) GERMANY, then emigrated to AMERICA in 1852 and settled first in ST. LOUIS. He then went to CAPE GIRARDEAU and after a short time came to CHARLESTON in early 1859. He married ELIZABETH BURKE March 27, 1862, and ten children were the result of the union. Those surviving him were: MRS. SANDERSON of TEXAS; MRS. O. W. ANDREWS of CHARLESTON; MISS VERNE; HENRY GEORGE; CLAY; CHARLES; WILLIAM; and TILDEN. He was a member of the city council several times.

(N) LUTZ, CHARLES I., SR. (February 2, 1847 - July 12, 1940) was born in CHARLESTON the son of IGNATIUS and ELIZABETH LUTZ. He married MARTHA "MATTIE" HARRIS and they had seven children. He was survived by his wife and children, MRS. MARGARET SHELBY, MRS. EMMA RYDER, MRS. BARBARA BAKER, MISS FRANCIS LUTZ, CHARLES I., JR., CASPER, and RICHARD.

(N) LYNN, WILLIAM PIPPIN (March 8, 1842 - September 9, 1902) died at his home near ANNISTON. He was born in MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1868. He was survived by his wife, ISABELLE, and two sons, HOMER and SAMUEL LYNN, and one daughter, MRS. LOTTIE BAKER.

(M) MCDOWELL, JUDGE JAMES CLARENCE (March 20, 1890 - 1972) was born at LEEMAN in CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI, and was of IRISH lineage, his grandfather having been a native of IRELAND. His father, JAMES C. MCDOWELL, was a soldier of the CONFEDERATE ARMY, and soon after the close of the CIVIL WAR came to MISSOURI, where he spent his remaining days as a farmer. He died, however, when his son, JUDGE MCDOWELL was but three months old. The mother was a member of the Irwin family of NORTH CAROLINA. Beginning his

education in the rural schools, JUDGE MCDOWELL afterward entered the SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE at CAPE GIRARDEAU, where he won his BACHELOR OF SCIENCE degree in 1911. He then earned his law degree at the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI. In June, 1917, he moved to CHARLESTON, MISSOURI. Three months later he was elected prosecuting attorney of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and filled that position from 1917 to 1925. With his retirement from office he formed a partnership with JUDGE BOONE that was terminated two years later and from 1927 he practiced independently until his elevation to the bench. He served as chairman of the Democratic executive committee of his county from 1928 until 1932. On the 29th of August, 1912, at CAPE GIRARDEAU, JUDGE MCDOWELL married CAROLYN SNIDER, and they had one daughter, ELAINE, who became the wife of JACK DENNY, a lawyer of GLASGOW, MISSOURI.

(N) *MCELMURRY, ABSALOM, JR.* (August 24, 1826 - July 23, 1915) was born in what is now MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of ABSALOM MCELMURRY, SR. His parents came from VIRGINIA and were the first persons married in MATHEWS PRAIRIE with EDWARD N. MATHEWS performing the ceremony. He went to NEW MADRID, MISSOURI then to LOUISIANA and returned to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1853. On August 24th of that year he married SARAH F. KENNEDY. During the CIVIL WAR his mill was destroyed and he moved to the THOMAS BECKWITH farm then known as the DR. PETRIE place. His first and only child, HENRY, was born in 1872. He served as city marshall of CHARLESTON for three years. HENRY died in 1899 and MRS. MCELMURRY in the same year.

(N) *MCELMURRY, SCOTT A.* (January 26, 1880 - November 22, 1925) was born in CHARLESTON. He was married February 22, 1906, to ANNA KARNES ( ? - February 1941) of RED BUD, LOUISIANA, who with three daughters survived him; ANNA BELLE, MAYME, and DOROTHY.

(N) *MCFADDEN, JOSEPHINE* (December 31, 1868 - February 1940) married J. L. MCFADDEN at BELMONT. He died in 1908. She was survived by two sons, REV. E. C. MCFADDEN and DR. J. F. MCFADDEN, and two daughters, MYRTLE MCFADDEN and MRS. JOE H. MOORE.

(N) *MCLAIN, LUE VERA* (September 12, 1880 - September 24, 1922) who maiden name was PRICE married J. C. MCCLAIN in 1901. They had five boys and three girls.

(N) *MCMIKLE, MRS. J. H.* (February 19, 1872 - January 13, 1903) was born SARAH CHRISTINIA BRODHACKER.

(N) *MCPHEETERS, JUDGE HUGH* (December 15, 1862 - August 30, 1928) was born in SALEM, INDIANA. On December 14, 1889, he married MAYME B. LEE. He was survived by his



wife and three children; DR. JAMES W., LEANDER B. and MISS LYNN MCPHEETERS.

(N) *MARABLE, JOHN* ( ? - March 9, 1950) died at the CAIRO, ILLINOIS hospital. He was owner and operator of the RUSSELL HOTEL at the time of his death.

(D) *MARBURY, HORATIO L.* (February 4, 1864 - November 20, 1875) was born at PRICE'S LANDING, SCOTT COUNTY. BENJAMIN MARBURY, his father, born at MC-MINNVILLE, TENNESSEE, on the 20th of September, 1840, was a man of broad education. His early training was in a literary school at LEAVENWORTH, TENNESSEE, and he afterward studied law, but finally decided in favor of medicine. He completed a course in the medical department of the VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, in 1868. He located at TRACY CITY, TENNESSEE, and became surgeon of the SEWANEE COAL MINE as well as a general physician. In 1873 he moved to CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, where he practiced until his death.

BENJAMIN MARBURY was a soldier under the Confederate General, BRAXTON BRAGG. He was made a prisoner at FRANKLIN, escaped from the boat in which he was confined, and while a fugitive was taken to the home of WILLIAM M. LUSK, a SCOTT COUNTY farmer, who had a daughter RACHEL ANNA. They were married in May, 1862, and the three children born of their union were HORATIO L., of this biography; BENJAMIN H., a lawyer of FARMINGTON, MISSOURI; and DR. ALEXANDER B. MARBURY, a dentist at CHARLESTON, MISSOURI.

H. L. MARBURY obtained his early education in the public schools of CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, and in 1884 entered the BELLVIEW COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE OF CALEDONIA graduating from its commercial department in 1889. After working for some time he returned to that institution and took an advanced course which brought him the degree of B.S. He then taught for several years in REYMONDS (?), SCOTT and WASHINGTON COUNTIES. He enlisted for service in the SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, joining the FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, INFANTRY REGIMENT. After the war he returned to FORT SMITH, where he was mustered out and then went to CALEDONIA, MISSOURI. In 1903 H. L. MARBURY married MISS NELLIE GERTRUDE EVENS, of MINERAL POINT, MISSOURI. Their first child was WILLARD HORATIO MARBURY born in 1907.

(N) *MARSHALL, DR. ALVIS TAYLOR* ( 1878 - ? ) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He graduated from MARION SIMS (BEAUMONT) COLLEGE in 1903. He practiced in ANNISTON, NEW MADRID, OKLAHOMA, CAMPBELL, PASCOLA, and then WYATT. IN 1908 he married MATTIE J. MATTHEWS of EAST ST. LOUIS.



(N) *MARTIN, DR. ALBERT J.* (September 5, 1870 - July 1958) was the son of DR. S. B. and MARY LONG MARTIN. He attended BEAUMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE in ST. LOUIS and in 1896 returned to EAST PRAIRIE to practice. On December 8, 1896, he married ANNIE MILLAR (December 25, 1879 - May 26, 1956). He was survived by two daughters, MRS. ROY WALDEN or WELDEN and MRS. JOSIE NEBBETT.

(N) *MARTIN, JOHN F.* (September 23, 1865 - November 21, 1918) was born in CHARLESTON. He received his education in the public schools and at the early age of nine years became associated with his brother, GEORGE W. MARTIN, in founding the CHARLESTON ENTERPRISE in 1874. Their paper was an amateur affair, but the persistence of the MARTIN boys won out and their paper continued until 1915, when it was merged with the COURIER. After the death of GEORGE MARTIN, JOHN F. became sole owner and publisher, and for many years conducted it with both daily and weekly editions. It was, at one time, the only daily publication in SOUTHEAST MISSOURI. In the late 90's, MR. MARTIN sold the ENTERPRISE, and later, in 1900, founded the COURIER, which he published until 1904 when it was purchased by E. H. SMITH. In 1910 he was elected a probate judge, re-elected again in 1914 and was planning to run for a third term at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife and one daughter.

(N) *MARTIN, MRS. NONCIE E.* ( ? - January 19, 1899) was the wife of the editor of the CHARLESTON DAILY ENTERPRISE. She was born NONCIE DELINE, the daughter of JUDGE LORENS DELINE. She was married September 28, 1891.

(N) *MARTIN, GEORGE W.* (November 2, 1859 - December 2, 1895) was born in CHARLESTON, the son of WILLIAM F. MARTIN who conducted and published the COURIER from 1858 to 1872. His father, at the time of his death, left six small children, GEORGE W., LENA A., ROBERT E., JOHN F., RICHARD V., HARRY, and their mother. GEORGE was around thirteen and the oldest. He had learned to set type in his father's office and was determined to establish a newspaper. He had no money, no office, and no press. He went to COL. H. J. DEAL and borrowed from him a small, crude job press. He moved this with a few types into his mother's smoke-house, and there the ENTERPRISE in 1875 had its origin. It was at first about ten by twelve inches. He enlarged his paper from time to time until it became one of the largest and best known in southeast MISSOURI. On May 9, 1881, he married ANNIE D. OGILVIE. Their children were: MONA, LURA, and EDNA. At the time of his death he had accumulated an estate of around \$15,000. He was clerk of the city for one year. He was postmaster for a time and later deputy postmaster. He contracted smallpox and died at the age of thirty-six.

(N) *MARTIN, JOSEPH F.* ( 1846 - February 16, 1902) married FLORENCE L. RUSH, daughter of ALFRED and LUCINDA (BREWER) RUSH in 1872. He was mayor and sheriff for a time.

(N) *MARTIN, MRS. MARY A.* (nee BAYNON) ( 1837? - April 10, 1902) died at CHARLESTON. She was a native of LONDON, ENGLAND, but lived in CHARLESTON since about 1847. She married WILLIAM F. MARTIN.

(N) *MARTIN, DR. SAM P.* (October 12, 1877 - October 1956) was the son of DR. SAMUEL P. and MAY LARUE MARTIN who had a general store in EAST PRAIRIE. He attended a subscription school taught by MISS MAGGIE DOYLE. He was further educated in MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY, CAPE GIRARDEAU NORMAL SCHOOL, DIXON ACADEMY IN TENNESSEE, ST. LOUIS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY and the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI at COLUMBIA. In 1906 he returned to EAST PRAIRIE to practice medicine and on January 12, 1908, he married LUCY SIMMONS. They had two sons, DR. BRUCE C. MARTIN and DR. SAMUEL P. MARTIN III.

(N) *MATTINGLY, W. V.* ( 1866 - ? ) was born in NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1880. He worked for the CHARLESTON LIVE STOCK COMPANY.

(N) *MATTINGLY, MRS. WILLIE* (January 27, 1866 - ? ) was married to HERMAN MATTINGLY who preceded her in death as did two children, a daughter, MRS. ROXIE MATTINGLY BOYCE, and a son, ALBERT MATTINGLY. She was survived by two sons, HERMAN MATTINGLY and WILLIAM R. MATTINGLY, and a daughter, MRS. LAURA DUNAWAY.

(H) *MEDLEY, JOHN CHRISOSTOM* ( ? - ? ) was the son of JAMES and was educated in BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY, where he was reared by his grandfather, JOHN C. MEDLEY. He married ANN LUDLOW FORSYTHE (November 11, 1843 - March 30, 1881) and they had several children, including LYMAN FORSYTHE MEDLEY. He moved from KENTUCKY to ILLINOIS and then to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, giving the name "MEDLEY'S LANDING" to a point opposite and south of the mouth of the OHIO RIVER between NORFOLK and WOLF ISLAND. Here he operated a store and bought grain.

LYMAN FORSYTHE MEDLEY (November 24, 1843 - March 30, 1881) studied law under JOSEPH C. MOORE. He was admitted to the bar and later moved to WAYNE COUNTY, MISSOURI. On December 5, 1866, he married AMANDA HUNTER BECKWITH (August 28, 1847 - April 4, 1927), daughter of MARMADUKE and CATHERINE HUNTER PRICE BECKWITH. She accompanied her grandfather,

ABRAHAM HUNTER, to the state of MISSISSIPPI during the CIVIL WAR. She became a refugee for having sung "The Bonny Blue Flag" at the closing exercises of a public school in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI. Their children were: HARRIETTA "HATTIE" ANN, LYMAN BECKWITH, MARY AMANDA, and ALTHEA "ALLIE" HUNTER.

(M) MEDLEY, MARY ( ? - ? ) married STEPHEN B. HUNTER (son of BEN F. HUNTER and NANCY BIRD) in March, 1904, at PIEDMONT, MISSOURI. She was a descendant of NEWMAN BECKWITH, who with his wife, JUDITH ANN NEAL, and children, MARMADUKE, LUCY, UNDERWOOD, QUIROS, MOUNTAIR, RICHARD, and some slaves came from FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, down the OHIO to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, in 1811. Of the children MARMADUKE married MRS. CATHERINE HUNTER PRICE, a daughter of COL. ABRAHAM HUNTER and thus MRS. STEPHEN B. HUNTER is a great-granddaughter of COLONEL ABRAHAM HUNTER while her husband was a grandson of the same ancestor. AMANDA BECKWITH, daughter of MARMADUKE BECKWITH, became the wife of LYMAN FORSYTHE MEDLEY, a son of JOHN C. MEDLEY and his wife, ANN LUDLOW FORSYTHE, who lived at MEDLEY'S LANDING in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI. The MEDLEY family came west from MARYLAND to KENTUCKY.

(N) MEEK, HOWARD T. ( 1834? - July 23, 1879).

(N) MILLAR, ADAM (November 9, 1811 - September 2, 1883) died at EAST PRAIRIE. He was born in SCIOTA COUNTY, OHIO, and lived there until 1840 when he and his parents (ABRAHAM and REBECCA MILLAR) moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and settled in EAST PRAIRIE. On November 5, 1879, he married MISS FANNIE M. KENRICK. He was buried in the family vault on the ISAAC MILLAR farm.

(N) MILLAR, ABRAHAM (UNCLE ABEL) ( 1817? - January 25, 1888) died at EAST PRAIRIE. He spent most of his life in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY coming there in 1835 in a wagon drawn by horses and with a few cooking utensils, a feather bed and eight dollars. In 1840 he married SARAH KENRICK and they had three children. One daughter married THOMPSON BIRD. He was buried in the grave yard near his home.

(N) MILLAR, JOHN A. (February 12, 1851 - September 16, 1941) was born in the MILLAR community, the son of ABRAHAM and SARAH (KENRICK) MILLAR, pioneer settlers who came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from OHIO. On April 15, 1873, he married ANNA KALFUS (December 1, 1856 - January 1941), daughter of COLUMBUS CLAY and ELIZABETH FORMAN KALFUS. They had seven children. Their daughter, GERTRUDE, married C. D. MITCHELL, state representative from 1922-23. MITCHELL was killed in an



automobile accident October 19, 1924, as he was returning from ST. LOUIS with some friends. Their daughter, ANNIE S., married H. S. ROBERTS. Three daughters and two sons survived him; MRS. GERTRUDE MITCHELL (July 29, 1874 - April 1948), MRS. JOHN DREW, MRS. A. J. MARTIN, CLAY, and ED.

(N) *MILLAR, LUCIAN DAVIS* (November 18, 1858 - April 22, 1933) was the son of FRANKLIN and SUSAN MILLAR. He was born in the MILLAR district and spent his life in that area. In 1881 he married ADA L. WILKINSON who died August 3, 1917. He was survived by three daughters; MRS. JOE P. DOYLE, MRS. C. E. WHITE and MRS. RUBY MAGER.

(N) *MILLAR, SUSAN* (December 19, 1833 - April 8, 1922) was born in FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, the daughter of JOHN H. and LUCINDA KENRICK. She married FRANKLIN S. MILLAR on April 25, 1855, and they moved to a farm near EAST PRAIRIE where she lived until her death. She was survived by one son, L. D. MILLAR.

(N) *MITCHELL, CARL D.* (March 19, 1873 - October 19, 1924) married GERTRUDE MILLAR in 1893, daughter of MR. and MRS. JOHN A. MILLAR. To this union was born one daughter, ANNIE (MRS. H. S. ROBERTS). He was the first mayor of EAST PRAIRIE and at the time of his death a member of the state legislature.

(N) *MITCHELL, D. D.* (March 24, 1845 - ? ) was born in LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, the son of MR. and MRS. JAMES MITCHELL. In 1891 he moved to CHARLESTON and rented a hotel for seven years but in 1898 he erected the MITCHELL HOTEL. On November 15, 1865, he married MISS NANCY EDWARDS, a daughter of MR. and MRS. RICHARD EDWARDS of LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY. They had nine children, eight of whom were still living in 1909; MRS. KITTIE PARSONS, W. D. MITCHELL, URIEL F. MITCHELL, GEORGE H. MITCHELL, MRS. MILLIE FRAZIER, CHARLES MITCHELL, MRS. ORA SIDWELL, and MRS. LAWRENCE GUNTHER. MRS. MITCHELL died February 10, 1908.

(N) *MITCHELL, MRS. SARA J.* (December 25, 1840 - January 21, 1917) was the daughter of PETER and ELIZABETH ST. CLAIR. She married L. B. MITCHELL November 22, 1865, and they had nine children one of whom later moved from ARKANSAS to EAST PRAIRIE, MISSOURI; LEWIS EDWIN, JAMES ST. CLAIR, HOWARD GIST, CARL DEBERRY of EAST PRAIRIE, CIDYE ESTELLE, MARY VIRGINIA, FREDERICK POINTER, MRS. D. S. COLEMAN, and RALPH CLEVELAND.

(M) *MOORE, BEN BIRD* (November 23, 1893 - ) was the second son of JAMES HANDY and MARY BIRD HUNTER MOORE. He was educated in the public schools of



CHARLESTON and at the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI. On December 29, 1920, he married FAYE SMITH and they had the following children: BEN BIRD JUNIOR (1921 - ), DOROTHY FAYETTE (1924 - ), JOSEPH HANDY (1929 - ). MR. and MRS. MOORE reside in CHARLESTON.

(M) *MOORE, JAMES HANDY* (November 3, 1865 - November 20, 1906) was born in CHARLESTON the son of JOSEPH C. and ELLA HANDY MOORE. He attended the BELEVUE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE at CALEDONIA, MISSOURI, winning his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1886, and in 1888 he won his Bachelor of Laws degree from VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY. For a few years he practiced law and then became cashier of the MISSISSIPPI COUNTY BANK. While with that institution he worked his way upward to the presidency and later resigned to become president of the SOUTHEAST MISSOURI TELEPHONE, LIGHT, POWER & ICE COMPANY. While engaged in the contracting business he built the first community dredge ditch in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He married MARY BIRD HUNTER (January 29, 1868 - May 31, 1949), daughter of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and NANCY EMILY BIRD HUNTER. They had four children: JOSEPH HUNTER; BEN BIRD MOORE; PAULINE who married H. S. AUSTIN; and NAIDINE who married HUGH SWAYNE. He served as president of the levee board from its organization until his death at forty-one.

(R) *MOORE, JAMES LORENZA* (September 29, 1805 - 1883) was born in SUMMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND, and in 1817 he emigrated with his father to KENTUCKY and remained there until he married MARY JANE CHALFANT (1809 - 1869) in 1831. He then came to MISSOURI and settled on MATHEW'S PRAIRIE, near the town of CHARLESTON. The first farm owned by JAMES L. MOORE was about two and a half miles south of CHARLESTON. On this he lived twenty-two years, and then moved to a place one mile west of CHARLESTON, where he lived three years then removing to a home in the northern part of CHARLESTON. In 1870 he was appointed treasurer of the county. JAMES and MARY JANE had three children: JOSEPH C. MOORE (1833 - 1910); MARY ELIZABETH (1847 - 1916) who married THOMAS HAYWARD BYRD (1840 - 1874); and SUSAN ANN (1851 - 1936) who married ALBERT VERNON GOODIN (1839 - 1896).

*MOORE, JOSEPH C.* ( 1775 - 1846) married MARGARET DARBY ( ? - 1817) in 1803. Their children were: ELIZABETH SHARP (1808 - 1842) who married REV. URIEL HAW (1799 - 1844) in 1832; ANN PURDY (1811 - ?) who married ISAAC VERNON; CHARLES WESLEY (1814 - 1876) who married CATHERINE CRENSHAW (1809 - 1880) in 1837; DANIEL ASBURY (1816 - 1839); and JAMES LORENZA.

(N) *MOORE, JOSEPH C.* (April 20, 1833 - June 4, 1910)

was born in MATHEW'S PRAIRIE, the son of JAMES L. and MARY JANE MOORE. On September 8, 1864, he married ELLA HANDY (1839 - September 1911) the daughter of JUDGE NOAH HANDY. They had four children: JAMES HANDY (1865 - 1906) who married MARY BYRD HUNTER; PAUL BYRD (1867-1932) who married MARGARET STEPHENS (1873 - 1847); "NELL" ELLA VIRGINIA (1873 - 1906) who married J. T. COOMBS; and JOSEPH ERNEST.

(M) *MOORE, JOSEPH HUNTER* (August 14, 1891 - September 21, 1973) was born at CHARLESTON, the son of JAMES HANDY and MARY BIRD HUNTER MOORE, and through collateral lines is related to the BIRD, HUNTER and HANDY families, all prominently connected with the pioneer history of southeastern MISSOURI. His great grandfather, JAMES LORENZA MOORE, and NOAH HANDY were from MARYLAND. His grandparents were JOSEPH CHALFANT and ELLA (HANDY) MOORE, the former member of the bar. His uncle, COLONEL PAUL B. MOORE, was a prominent lawyer and political leader of the state who served as secretary to GOVERNOR LON V. STEPHENS and was colonel on the staff of GOVERNOR WILLIAM STONE. JOSEPH HUNTER MOORE attended CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY in INDIANA and won his Bachelor of Arts degree upon the completion of the course of study at the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI as a member of the class of 1914. In the same year he began farming several thousand acres of land in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. In April, 1932, he married CAROLINE "CARRIE" MCFADDEN, of BELMONT, MISSOURI, a daughter of JAMES F. MCFADDEN, a farmer and merchant. They had two children, JAMES HANDY MOORE (1932 - ) and WILLIAM BIRD MOORE (1935 - ). MR. MOORE served in the State Legislature and starting in 1915 he became active in levee district work serving for many years as agent for Levee District No. 3. He was also a long-time member of St. John District Levee Board.

(N) *MOORE, PAUL BYRD* (October 26, 1867 - June 2, 1932) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of JOSEPH CHALFANT and ELLA HANDY MOORE. He graduated from VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY in 1890. In 1895 he married MARGARET STEPHENS and they had three children, LON V. (1909 - 1957), MARGARET (1900 - ) and JOELLA (1905 - ). He was a member of GOVERNOR STONE'S personal military staff and a member of the state legislature from 1892 to 1896. In 1906 he returned from JEFFERSON CITY to CHARLESTON and established a Republican newspaper and hired GEORGE NELSON STILLE as editor.

*MOORE, PAUL HANDY* ( 1898 - ) is the grandson of JOSEPH CHALFANT MOORE and ELLA HANDY MOORE and son of JAMES T. COOMBS and ELLA VIRGINIA

COOMBS (August 30, 1873 - October 1, 1906), daughter of JOSEPH C. and ELLA H. MOORE. He married MARGARET CROCKETT, daughter of MEREDITH ADAIR EDWARDS and CHARLES J. CROCKETT. They have a son, CHARLES, and a daughter, MARY TAYLOR MOORE. PAUL HANDY MOORE served in both WORLD WARS and still resides in CHARLESTON.

(N) *MOSBY, COL. JEFF* ( 1815? - April 1880) was well known in CHARLESTON. He resided in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY for thirty-five years and was a soldier in the MEXICAN WAR.

(N) *MULKEY, MRS. BESS* (February 20, 1883 - March 7, 1970) was the daughter of JOHN T. and MARY RUSHING HEGGIE. JOHN L. MULKEY, her husband, died in January of 1926. She was survived by two daughters, MRS. SAM COX GOODIN and MRS. PRINCE MOXLEY. She was preceded in death by a son and two daughters.

(N) *MUNGER, JOHN* ( ? - March 2, 1918) was a native of PENNSYLVANIA and came to EAST PRAIRIE in 1891 to work for the WARD LUMBER COMPANY. When it closed he bought a farm. He was survived by his wife, four daughters; ANICE, BEULAH, GERTRUDE, and WILLIE, and two sons; HARVEY and JOSEPH ARNOLD.

(N) *NAIVE, J. H.* (October 10, 1824 - August 9, 1905) was born near NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. He married in the fall of 1845 and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY where he resided until his death.

(N) *O'BRYAN, DANIEL* (August 10, 1878 - March 15, 1954) was a descendant of one of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY'S most prominent pioneer families. He was born in POPLAR BLUFF, the son of J. L. and ELIZABETH ARMSLEY O'BRYAN. He was admitted to the bar in VERNON COUNTY and was CITY ATTORNEY of NEVADA, MISSOURI, from 1906 to 1911. He moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and engaged in farming. He was elected to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES for the 60th GENERAL ASSEMBLY and for several terms thereafter, serving a total of ten years. Two cousins survived him, MRS. FRED C. HURST of BERTRAND and WILLIAM R. O'BRYAN of BOONVILLE, MISSOURI. He was a graduate of WESTMINSTER COLLEGE at FULTON, MISSOURI.

(N) *O'BRYAN, JUDGE HARRY CLAY* (January 8, 1845 - June 19, 1921) was born in the state of MISSISSIPPI. He came to CHARLESTON in 1875 to practice law. He was CIRCUIT JUDGE for six years. He married KATE HESS of TENNESSEE and they had three children. His wife and one daughter, MRS. FRED HURST, survived him.

(N) *O'BRYAN, MRS. VALENTINE* ( 1825? - December 1885).

(N) *OGILVIE, SAMUEL* (March 12, 1820 - November 30,

1912) was born in WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, and came to WOLF ISLAND in 1853. On December 18, 1856, he married SALLIE MCELMURRY. He later married MARY MCELMURRY (April 3, 1845 - December 18, 1932) who was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and who was the oldest native resident at the time of her death. He was survived by MRS. M. A. (AGGIE) DRANE, J. L., W. A., and T. M. OGILVIE by his first wife, and by LAURA OGILVIE, DR. FRED L. OGILVIE and DR. ROY K. OGILVIE by his second wife. He served as county sheriff and collector.

(N) *OGILVIE, J. L.* (September 1862 - April 1938) was the son of SAM and SALLY OGILVIE. He married GEORGIE C. (1868 - May 1939), daughter of JAMES D. and FANNIE (ROUSE) CLARKSON in 1890. He was survived by his wife and one son, JAMES CLARKSON OGILVIE.

(N) *OGILVIE, E. W.* (May 6, 1851 - November 21, 1922) was born in PADUCAH, KENTUCKY, the son of LEMUEL and MARTHA (WINSTEAD) OGILVIE. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1870 to engage in farming. In 1872 with SAMUEL OGILVIE he embarked in the mercantile business. In 1902 he founded the PEOPLE'S BANK. In 1875 he married EMMA OVERSTREET of KENTUCKY, and had two children. One died in infancy, ELMER died in 1912. His wife died a few years after their marriage. On November 22, 1900, he married MRS. KATE WILLIAMS of CINCINNATI, OHIO. He was survived by his wife and two grandchildren, EMMA and ELMER OGILVIE.

(N) *ORR, DR. ALFRED A.* (November 20, 1837 - November 24, 1924) was born in MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY. He came to CHARLESTON as a traveling dentist, practicing in KENTUCKY and SOUTHEAST MISSOURI. In 1876 he located permanently in CHARLESTON and on May 8, 1884, he married LULA DERMAN (February 28, 1856 - ? ), daughter of MR. and MRS. FRED DERMAN who had moved to CHARLESTON from ST. LOUIS and were making their home at the WHITCOMB HOTEL. Her father homesteaded a farm in what was known as SPANISH GRANT. She was survived by her sister's son, ETHELBERT KERRIGAN, his wife and two sons, WILLIAM and CHARLES KERRIGAN.

(N) *OSTNER, MAX L.* (June 25, 1867 - August 30, 1922) was born in ST. LOUIS. He moved to DIEHLSTADT as a young man. On December 23, 1892, he married SARAH LOUISE CAVANAH and had nine children, eight of whom survived him, MRS. HARRY BOND, MRS. WELLBORN ESTES, F. M., MISS HELEN, MARSHALL, JOHN, SARAH and LOUISE. He moved to CHARLESTON around 1907.

(N) *PARKS, JAMES* ( 1799? - November 20, 1884) had lived in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY since 1858.

(N) *PATRICK, JOHN* ( 1831? November 19, 1893) died



in the CONCORD settlement.

(N) *PATTERSON, DR. T. L.* (November 15, 1849 - July 21, 1907) was born in FLORENCE, ALABAMA. He lived in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY for around fifty years. He was first married to MARY MCELMURRY and they had two children, MRS. J. W. PRATT and one deceased. On October, 24, 1889, he married JENNIE DILWORTH of MISSISSIPPI and they had six children. He was survived by his wife and four children, TOM, ROB, JOHN, and JOE.

(N) *PENNY, JASPER BENJAMIN* (June 18, 1869 - 1961) was the son of JOHN and SUSAN PENNY. He graduated from the COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY in NASHVILLE and came to CHARLESTON in 1892. He continued to practice until 1960. He was survived by his wife, MOLLIE WILLS PENNY, and one son, GLENN PENNY of OHIO. Two sons and one daughter preceded him in death: ELMER, in 1949; MRS. MILTON KURRE in 1960; and EDGAR in 1961. When he came to CHARLESTON he was a partner of DR. ALFRED ORR.

(N) *PENNY MRS. W. H.* ( ? - February 1880) was the wife of the proprietor of the ST. CHARLES HOTEL.

(N) *POLSTON, PLEASANT* ( ? - March 10, 1881) died in JAMES BAYOU TOWNSHIP.

(N) *POTTINGER, HARDY B.* ( 1880 - August 26, 1941) was born at FARMINGTON and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY at the age of eight. He was survived by his wife, EMMA DANIELS POTTINGER, whom he married in 1920 and by two sons, HARDY J. and JAMES. He was city marshall for four terms.

*POWELL, JOHN AMOS* (1850 - 1935) was born in PLATTSBURG, MISSOURI, the son of CHARLES and \_\_\_\_\_ POWELL. He married MARY EVA JONES (1860 - 1950), the daughter of THOMAS GOODWIN and \_\_\_\_\_ JONES. They had two sons, WILLIAM HAMPSTEAD and JOHN GOODWIN. JOHN AMOS POWELL moved to the ARMER community in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1912.

WILLIAM H. POWELL (1890 - 1972) married BLYTHE ELIZABETH ROWE (1892 - ), daughter of GEORGE PARKER and ELIZABETH (ELMORE) ROWE, and they had three sons; HAMPSTEAD ROWE (1917 - 1973), REX HILLIARD (1918 - 1945) and JOHN PARKER (1930 - 1968).

JOHN G. POWELL (1894 - 1971) married RUTH GRESHAM, daughter of MILO and \_\_\_\_\_ GRESHAM and they had two daughters, RUTH WARD and MARY EMMA. (Information supplied by Mrs. William Powell, Malden, Missouri.)

(N) *PRESSON, REV. J. J.* (January 31, 1829 - May 29, 1909) was born in ANSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, son of SAMUEL and ANNA PRESSON. On December 23, 1851, he

married LOUISA J. GREER and in 1873 they came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. They had eleven children; SUSAN A., NEEDHAM W., LOUISIAN B., JOHN B., SAMUEL A., SARAH L., MARY J., EMMA BELLE, WILLIAM H., PRITCHETT and TELITHA C.

(N) *PRESSON, MATTHEW LEE* ( 1864? - February 12, 1966) died at the age of 102 and claimed to be the oldest living resident of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY.

(N) *PREUITT, CAPT. VALENTINE* (1830? - 1900?) at one time was a 49'er, a scout and a shotgun messenger for WELLS FARGO. On May 11, 1865, he married MARY JANE (June 12, 1846 - 1917), daughter of J. T. O. MORRISON of NEW MADRID, MISSOURI. They moved to CHARLESTON when there were only three stores. For many years they lived in a house that stood where the LAIR STORE later was built. He served as an officer in COMPANY M. FIRST MISSOURI VOLUNTEERS, U. S. CAVALRY DIVISION. He was survived by his wife and children: LULA; CAROLINE (March 21, 1876 - July 1940) who married RICHARD P. BERRY; THOMAS O.; BESSIE; and MAYME. He was a law enforcement officer in CHARLESTON and his luck or bravery or both were well known.

(N) *PUTNAM, E. R.* (February 22, 1891 - July 13, 1948) married MILDRED LOEBE on June 17, 1913. He was survived by his wife, a son, E. R. PUTNAM, JR. and a daughter, MRS. W. S. VANDIVORT.

(N) *PUTNAM, J. W.* came to CHARLESTON in 1903 from CHILLICOTHE, MISSOURI, and established the J. W. PUTNAM MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

(N) *RAFFETY, ULYSSES G.* ( 1885 - December 1918) was born in KENTUCKY and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1896 with his parents who made their home near WYATT. In February of 1908 he married JULIA NORRIS. They had three children. In 1912 he was made overseer of SENATOR HUNTER'S great land holdings in the northern part of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He then moved to BIRD'S MILL.

(N) *RAGSDALE, WILLIAM BUCKNER* (December 7, 1880 - May 21, 1960) was born in PARIS, MISSOURI, the son of FRANK V. and SUE BUCKNER RAGSDALE. It was he who provided the impetus through which the BUCKNER-RAGSDALE stores in CAPE GIRARDEAU, CHARLESTON and SIKESTON were established. The CAPE GIRARDEAU store opened on September 3, 1907. It was the first complete ready-to-wear store for the whole family in southeast MISSOURI. In 1913 the company further expanded, establishing a store at SIKESTON. In November of 1909 he married NELL DEAL (October 25, 1883 - August 22, 1970) daughter of EDWIN P. and MARY CRENSHAW DEAL. The following year they moved to CHARLESTON to make it their

permanent home. The store in CHARLESTON was opened in September of 1910. He was a member of the METHODIST CHURCH, affiliated with the KIWANIS CLUB and an active MASON. He was an active civic leader until his health began to fail. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife, a daughter, MRS. FRANK BIHR, a sister MRS. ROY NOEL of PARIS, MISSOURI, a granddaughter, DOROTHY BIHR, and a sister-in-law, IDA B. DEAL. Another daughter, DOROTHY DEAL RAGSDALE died in 1943.

(N) RAWLS, DR. E. J. ( 1843 - ? ) was born in ROB COUNTY, TENNESSEE. He graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE in 1869. He came to WYATT in 1889.

(N) REID, DR. HENRY LEACH (April 26, 1866 - February 5, 1925) was born in JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, the son of W. T. and ELIZA RUSSELL REID. In 1894 he married SUE BYRD. He came to CHARLESTON in 1892. He was survived by his wife and two brothers, DR. C. W. REID, and JOE B. REID.

(N) REIN, ED C. (October 14, 1833 - August 13, 1927) was born in GERMANY. He came to the UNITED STATES in 1856 and to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1882. He was survived by two sons, ED C. JR. and a daughter, MRS. JACKSON.

(N) RINGO, JOSEPH M. (September 1829 - January 19, 1893) had been a resident of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OVER FORTY YEARS. He was born in HICKMAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He married FREDANIA MCGRAGOR February 21, 1854. Three boys and three girls survived him. He was a judge of the county court for four years and treasurer for four years.

(N) ROBERTS, HARRY SILVEY (August 18, 1884 - April 13, 1950) came to EAST PRAIRIE in 1910 as a miller for the EAST PRAIRIE MILLING COMPANY operated by U. A. SWINGLE. Two years later he and his father-in-law purchased the W. C. BRYANT MERCHANT CO. and opened it as the "FARMERS SUPPLY COMPANY." In 1923 he and E. C. DAVIS constructed EAST PRAIRIE'S first modern cotton gin and in 1924 the first electric powered cotton gin. He later owned many other interests and considerable farm land. He was survived by his wife, ANNIE ROBERTS, daughter of CARL DEBERRY and GERTRUDE MILLAR MITCHELL, and one daughter, MRS. SAM G. JONES (GERTRUDE).

(N) RODNEY, MARTIN VAN BUREN ( 1832? - October 24, 1897) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and lived there all of his life. On January 10, 1856, he married ELIZABETH HARRIS (July 9, 1837 - April 13, 1883), daughter of ALFRED E. and BARBARA HARRIS and they had nine children.

(N) RODNEY, WILLIAM (October 7, 1825 - July 1905) was born in LAWRENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, the son of JOHN RODNEY, who came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY from KEN-

TUCKY in 1811. His paternal grandfather settled in CAPE GIRARDEAU in 1798, having emigrated from ENGLAND. His maternal grandfather was from ENGLAND and settled at NORFOLK, in 1797. In 1853 WILLIAM located on the farm where he lived until his death. He married MARTHA V. HARRIS and they were the parents of three children; WALTER F., ALTHEA, and ELLA. He was also closely related to the KENRICK brothers.

### **ROLWING FAMILY**

HENRICH HERMAN KOTTING was born in HENGELER in PRUSSIA, September 8, 1792, and married MARIA CHRISTINA ROLWING who was born in the same town on August 13, 1793. He took his wife's last name and moved to the UNITED STATES in 1846 supposedly to avoid serving in the PRUSSIAN ARMY. At his death around 1865 he was the first person to be buried in the TEXAS BEND CEMETERY. Their children were: BERNARD HENRICH, MARIA CATHERINA, CHRISTINA ADELHEID, JOANN HENRICH, JOANN HENDRINA, JOANN HERMANN, JOANN WILHELM, ANTON BERNARD, and JOANN GERHARD.

The oldest son, BERNARD HENRICH ROLWING (1814 - 1887) married ELIZABETH R. \_\_\_\_\_. They moved to CAPE GIRARDEAU after their marriage and their children were: CHRISTINA, HENRY H., MARY E., BERNARD GEORGE "BARNEY", JOSEPH A., CATHERINE MARIE "KATE" and HELENA.

BERNARD GEORGE "BARNEY" ROLWING (1858 - 1942) married CLARA M. OHMES and their children were GERTRUDE ELIZABETH, DOROTHY KATHERINE, FRANCIS DESALES, ERNEST CHARLES, MARY SCHOLASTICA and CLARA BERNADINE.

FRANCIS DESALES ROLWING (1902 - 1973) married MARGARET HUNTER and they had two sons: FRANCIS DAVID and THOMAS HUNTER.

ERNEST CHARLES ROLWING (1904 - ) married MARY BRYANT HEGGIE and their children were: ERNEST CHARLES, JR., JOHN H. and MARY JEANNE.

JOSEPH A. "JOE" ROLWING (1861 - 1941) married SOPHIE KLIPFEL and their children were: OTTO JOSEPH, PAUL LAWRENCE, ELSIE MARY and CORNELIUS J.

OTTO JOSEPH ROLWING (1890 - 1941) married ETHEL MAY NEWCUM and their children were: NORBERT SAMUEL, MARY MARGARET, HELEN ANNE, MIRIAM DOLORES, FRIEDA "ROSEMARY", JOHN FRANCIS, MARK FIDELIS and DENIS PATRICK.

NORBERT SAMUEL ROLWING (1917 - ) married ANNA CARMELITA LITTLE and their children were: CATHERINE ELIZABETH "BETTY", JOSEPH OTTO, STEPHEN MICHAEL, MARY EVELYN, JUDITH ELLEN,



RONALD EUGENE, and JEROME CHRISTOPHER.

PAUL LAWRENCE ROLWING (1892 - ) married ELIZABETH WESSELS and their children were: CORNELIUS, HERMAN, RICHARD C., ROBERT JAMES, ALBERT EDWARD and MARY AGNES.

JOANN HENRICH "HENRY" ROLWING (1820 - 1869?), fourth child, married CENIA, born in GERMANY and their children were: HENRY, MARY B., HERMAN H., JOHN N. and GEORGE WILLIAM.

GEORGE WILLIAM ROLWING (1862 - 1935) married ANNIE FRANCES "FANNIE" BRINKMAN and their children were: ODELIA, WILLIAM HENRY, MINNIE SOPHIA, GERTRUDE B., STELLA, CLYDE J. and ADALBERT G.

WILLIAM HENRY ROLWING (1889 - 1959) married MARY CLAUDIA CARLISLE and their son was WILLIAM GEORGE.

JOANN GERHARD ROLWING, ninth child, (1834 - 1884) married MARIE ODILE MARCHILDON, born in QUEBEC and their children were: MARY EMMA, HENRY SEVERE, ZELIA EULALIE, CYRILLE ANTHONY, EDWARD GEORGE, GENEVIEVE EULALIE "JENNIE", and MYRTLE JUSTINE.

HENRY SEVERE ROLWING (1867 - 1939) married BEATRICE MARCHILDON and their children: MARTHA ODILE, EDWARD MERLIN "BILL", FRANCIS DESALES, MARY CHRISTINE, HENRY S. JR., "BUCK".

E. MERLIN ROLWING (1902 - ) married ROSE B. MARBAUGH and their children were: ROBERT EUGENE, RICHARD JOSEPH, RAYMOND HUGH "JERRY", RUTH RAMONA, and RUSSELL CLYDE. (Information supplied by Betty Darnell, Charleston, Missouri.)

(N) ROSENSTEIN, SOL (August 25, 1842 - March 2, 1924) was born in FUSGENBERIN, BAVARIA. At the age of twenty-one he came to the UNITED STATES and then to CAIRO, ILLINOIS. He married BETTIE BLACK (1846? - July 23, 1924) in 1867 and the following year they came to CHARLESTON to start a mercantile business. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, MRS. A. S. HULIT and MRS. A. W. CHAPMAN.

(N) ROUSE, HANS (April 15, 1864 - May 15, 1897) was born in HENDERSON, KENTUCKY, the son of H. E. and MARTHA ROUSE. He was married at JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, to MISS MAUD DAVIS and they had one child, a boy.

(N) ROWE, EDGAR M. (December 5, 1870 - November 6, 1932) was born in CHARLESTON, the son of Dr. J. M. ROWE. He was appointed postmaster of CHARLESTON in 1898. He resigned a year later to accept a position with a stationery firm of ST. LOUIS as their traveling representative. He was survived by his wife and one son, THORNTON.

(N) ROWE, GEORGE P. (December 6, 1854 - December 8,

1939) was born in HOLLOW ROCK, TENNESSEE. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and married ELIZABETH ELMORE. They had eight children: MAUD who married GEORGE CAIN; CLAIR who never married; SETH who married JUANITA WHARRY; HOMER who married RUBY DITMORE; BERT who married PHOEBE SCHAPER; BLYTHE who married WILLIAM H. POWELL; GRACE who married F. T. CUTLIPH; and RUTH who married JULIAN E. THOMPSON. He and his brother, DR. JOHN M. ROWE, ran one of the largest and best stock farms in the county. They employed around thirty hands to help with their five hundred acre farm and handle horses, mules and cattle.

(N) *ROWE, DR. JOHN M.* (October 18, 1841 - January 2, 1919) was born in CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE, and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1874. In October of 1868 he married JOSEPHINE JORDAN and they had three children: EDGAR M., STELLA M. (MRS. E. H. SMITH) and WALTER S. JOSEPHINE died in 1875 and in 1878 he married JULIA RUSSELL (March 30, 1857 - October 1945), daughter of JOSEPH TWILLY and PATIENCE ANN RUSSELL. Her mother died when she was twelve and her father a few years later. She was raised by her older brother, JOSEPH J. RUSSELL. JOHN and JULIA ROWE had six children; CARL R., HERBERT, JOHN M. JR., LELA B. (MRS. F. D. LAIR), LURA D. and NEVA L. (MRS. S. P. SALMON). He was a lover of good horses. In 1897 as he was returning from a call his horse became frightened and threw him from his sulkey. He suffered a concussion but recovered. For one year he operated the CHARLESTON REPUBLICAN as editor until the paper was merged with the ENTERPRISE-COURIER in April of 1917.

(N) *ROWE, WALTER S.* (February 21, 1874 - November 16, 1937) was born in HOLLOW ROCK, TENNESSEE, the son of DR. and MRS. J. M. ROWE. He married BERTIE E. THOMPSON (July 13, 1875 - December 9, 1936) on December 10, 1895. He was survived by one son, MARION.

(N) *RUGGIERO, SALVATORE* (December 5, 1884 - July 1941) was born in ITALY and came to the UNITED STATES around 1891. He was known to CHARLESTON residents as "CHARLEY DAGO" and was a familiar figure offering peanuts and fruit on the streets of CHARLESTON. His stand was built under the old frame stairway of the old opera house at the northeast corner of Center and West Commercial Streets. Within a few years he purchased the building and then purchased other pieces of real estate. He became a substantial and well liked citizen and at his death left quite a sizable estate.

(N) *RUSH, ALFRED* (April 4, 1810 - April 30, 1895) was born in VIRGINIA and was taken by his parents to KENTUCKY when he was one year old, where they remained five years and then came to MISSOURI in 1816, where he lived for the

rest of his life. In January of 1845 he married LUCINDA BREWER, daughter of JANE PANQUE BREWER and ERWIN BREWER. Born to them were: LOUISA E. (BETTY) RUSH (July 1846 ? ) who was the mother of I. N. SMITH; and RACHEL RUSH (October 1848 - ? ) the mother of MRS. W. C. BRYANT, JOE JOHN, JAMES SWANK, and MRS. WALTER SHIVELY, and who was also the grandmother of E. E. and H. T. BRYANT. They had altogether nine children, five of whom survived him. His wife died in 1866.

(N) *RUSHING, WILLIS C.* ( 1849? - September 28, 1879).

(N) *RUSSELL, JOSEPH J.* (August 23, 1854 - October 19, 1922) was born on the RUSSELL farm west of CHARLESTON, the son of JOSEPH T. and PATIENCE RUSSELL. He attended the public school in CHARLESTON, the old CHARLESTON ACADEMY and graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI at COLUMBIA in 1880 as valedictorian. On July 26, 1884, he married BELLE GROATH (November 8, 1861 - April 12, 1947) who was born in KENTUCKY. He was county SCHOOL COMMISSIONER in 1879, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY from 1881 to 1884, served as a MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATOR from 1886 to 1892 and a member of the UNITED STATES CONGRESS in 1908. He was survived by his wife, one brother, JOHN C. RUSSELL, and one sister, MRS. JULIA E. ROWE.

(N) *RUSSELL, MRS. FRANK* (December 5, 1858 - June 1944) was the daughter of MR. and MRS. FRANCIS JOSEPH JECKO. She was survived by her husband and five children by a former marriage; MRS. PAUL BAUR, MRS. WILLIAM KING, FRANK SCHUH, CARL SCHUH, and BRYAN SCHUH.

(N) *RUSSELL, JOHN C.* (December 7, 1860 - January 8, 1928) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY the son of JOSEPH T. and PATIENCE RUSSELL. In April of 1892 he married LILLIE SLACK who died without issue. In 1901 he married HARRIETT SEXTON of AMES, LOUISIANA. He was survived by his wife and two sons, JOHN JOE and FRANK.

(N) *RUSSELL, THOMAS THORNTON* (August 21, 1877 - 1907) was the son of MR. and MRS. H. M. RUSSELL of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He died in BARTLESVILLE INDIAN TERRITORY. He was survived by his mother and brothers, W. C., FRANK, ALBERT and JOHN G.

(N) *RUSSELL, W. CLARK* (January 8, 1870 - October 12, 1932) was born at BERTRAND. He studied law in the office of J. J. RUSSELL. He served as PROBATE JUDGE before moving to BOLLINGER COUNTY. He married OLLIE BECKWITH in 1898 who died in 1916. They had two sons, THOMAS BECKWITH RUSSELL and WILLIAM C. RUSSELL.

(N) *RYKER, A. J.* (January 4, 1855 - ? ) was born in JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1880. He was appointed postmaster at EAST

PRAIRIE in 1897.

(N) *SALMON, NEVA ROWE* (December 18, 1889 - 1968) was the daughter of DR. JOHN M. and JULIA RUSSELL ROWE. She was married in February of 1913. She was survived by one daughter, MRS. C. O. RAINE, and one sister, MRS. F. D. LAIR, SR.

(N) *SCHUH, FRANK G.* (April 1856 - December 10, 1897) was born in CAIRO, ILLINOIS and moved to CHARLESTON in 1886 and opened a bakery. He married CLARA JECKO. Three boys and two girls survived him.

(N) *SCOTT, JAMES ERNEST* (January 1, 1893 - November 11, 1973) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of WILLIAM J. and BELL SHELBY SCOTT. He married ORA C. COBB and after her death in 1962, he married the former EDNA DIENER, who survived him. He was also survived by a son, JAMES M. SCOTT. He was mayor of EAST PRAIRIE when the first water and sewer systems were installed. He was elected SHERIFF of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1940 and served in that position until he retired in 1959.

(N) *SCULLY, F. M.* ( ? - July 1903) was the father of MARK SCULLY.

(N) *SHELBY, ELBERT* (October 1, 1865 - June 14, 1925) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. On June 1, 1887, he married JOSEPHINE DELINE and they had four children, all of whom survived him; J. LOREN SHELBY, DR. M. H. SHELBY, MRS. MOORE SWANK and MISS ISABEL SHELBY.

(N) *SHELBY, JACOB LOREN "JULY"* ( 1889? - January 1972) was married to GRACE LEE on March 22, 1916. He was survived by his wife, one son, CHARLES ELBERT SHELBY, and one daughter, MRS. ART WILIOTT. He was city judge of CHARLESTON for seventeen years.

(N) *SHELBY, GEORGE U.* (July 13, 1892 - September 18, 1970) was the son of ISOM CLAY and ELIZABETH C. BARTLETT SHELBY. In March of 1913 he married JUANITA MARTIN who died January 3, 1957. On June 25, 1959, he married MRS. JUDITH WILKINSON BROWN. He was a prominent land owner, cotton ginner and grain dealer. He was survived by his wife, four daughters, MRS. GRINSTEAD BREWER, MRS. JAMES THURMOND, MRS. JOHN DER-NONCOURT, MRS. SAMUEL LOWREY, and a son, GEORGE U. SHELBY, JR.

(N) *SHELBY, JOHN D.* (September 4, 1851 - December 28, 1930) was POLICE JUDGE and JUSTICE OF THE PEACE for fifteen years prior to his death. He was survived by his wife and the following children: MRS. MONCY COLLINS, MISS JASMINE SHELBY, MRS. MABEL DUDLEY, MRS. MARY FARMER, MISS JEAN SHELBY, JOHN and HARDY.

(N) *SHELBY, MRS. JOSEPHINE* (November 23, 1854 -



December 19, 1897) married W. H. SHELBY and had five children.

### **SHEPPARD FAMILY**

ISAAC SHEPPARD was born around 1775 and died around 1839 in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI. He came from NORTH CAROLINA in 1807. He was first married to MARGARET COX who was born around 1775 and died in 1822 in CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY. She was the daughter of WILLIAM COX, SR. The children of ISAAC and MARGARET SHEPPARD were: ELISHA (1791 - 1858) who married MALINDA BLOUNT; WILLIAM (1793 - 1844) who married DORCAS A. C. SHEPPARD; JOHN (1796 - 1866) who married ELIZABETH GREEN; a daughter (name unknown) who married JOHN GLASSCOCK; a daughter (name unknown) who married a MR. MASSEY; JESSE C. ( - 1848) who married MRS. NANCY WILKERSON; DORCAS L. (1808 - 1867) who married JOHN H. SHEPPARD; MARGARET who married JOHN DUNCAN; MONICA E. (1811 - 1856) who married JABEZ CLARKSON; MENICE J. who married JOHN C. THOMAS; SURRELL; FRANK ALLEN JONES; and SOPHIA ELIZABETH. ISAAC SHEPPARD was married next to MARY LAMBERT on June 9, 1825, in UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS. There is no record of children born to this union.

JOHN H. SHEPPARD, JR. (1801 - 1866) was the son of JOHN SHEPPARD, SR. and grandson of WILLIAM and JEMINAH JOHNSON SHEPPARD. WILLIAM died in ANSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA in 1801. JOHN H. SHEPPARD, JR.'s first wife was POLLY RENFROE (1803 - 1830). Their children were: BURRELL C. (1821 - 1871); MARTHA ANN (1823 - 1868) who married JOHN D. KENNEDY; HANNAH ADELINE (1827 - 1886) who married first HARRISON S. THOMPSON and second JOHN HARNESS. They were all born in CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI. JOHN H. SHEPPARD, JR.'s second wife was DORCAS SHEPPARD, daughter of ISAAC SHEPPARD, and their children were: MARGARET S. (1832 - 1846); ISAAC JUDSON (1835 - 1862); CHARLOTTE (1837 - 1927) who married JOSIAH C. TRAYLOR; (CHARLOTTE joined the BAPTIST CHURCH in CHARLESTON and was baptized in HENSON LAKE in 1854) WILLIAM (1839 - 1870); JOHN (1841 - 1844); HAYWOOD (1844 - 1880) who married VIRGINIA A. LOUDERMILK; JAMES POLK (1846 - 1915) who married MARY FRANCES LOUDERMILK; MARY A. (1849 - 1849); LAURA (1850 - 1888) who married WILLIAM BENJAMIN MILBY. ALL were born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. (Information supplied by Mrs. Harry Norman, Bloomfield, Missouri 63825.)

(N) *SHERMAN, DR. J. S.* (August 18, 1855 - December 27, 1881) was born about four miles from CHARLESTON. He went to the local public schools, then to the UNIVERSITY OF

MISSOURI where he graduated in the Scientific Department in 1876. He entered the medical department of the STATE UNIVERSITY and was valedictorian of his graduating class. He returned to CHARLESTON and became associated with DR. J. L. HAW for a year then entered JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE in PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA and graduated in 1880. He again became associated with DR. HAW. He never married and at the time of his death left a father, sister and brother.

(N) *SHERMAN, WILLIAM* (March 15, 1826 - September 13, 1895) was born in JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, the son of CHARLES R. and JULIA A. (PORTER) SHERMAN, both of whom were natives of MARYLAND. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and in 1851 married SALLIE SMITH (? - 1860), daughter of JAMES SMITH.

(N) *SIGMON, JAMES K.* ( ? - December 1901).

(M) *SIMPSON, HARRY GUNTER* (January 14, 1899 - 1971) was born in CHARLESTON, MISSOURI. His father, JOSHUA BURTON SIMPSON, was born in SUTTY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, July 4, 1868, and was a son of WILLIAM BURTON SIMPSON, who was born in VIRGINIA and served as a captain of NORTH CAROLINA troops in the CONFEDERATE ARMY.

HARRY GUNTER SIMPSON attended the high school of CHARLESTON and was graduated with the BACHELOR OF ARTS degree from the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI and taught school in CHARLESTON. In 1921 he became connected with the oil business as a filling station attendant but was soon made a salesman. In 1923 he organized the SIMPSON OIL CO. OF CHARLESTON, starting with a small bulk plant and one truck, and by 1943 had fourteen bulk plants and one hundred retail outlets. He had his own barge line, operating under the name of the SIMPSON TOWING COMPANY, and one river terminal at NEW MADRID and one at SULPHUS SPRINGS, MISSOURI. His sales district, both wholesale and retail, covered ST. LOUIS, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, JEFFERSON COUNTY and WASHINGTON COUNTY in MISSOURI and adjacent territory in western ILLINOIS, KENTUCKY and as far south as MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. On the 26th of December, 1922, MR. SIMPSON married MISS GLADYS DANIELSON, of KANSAS CITY. She was a graduate of LINDENWOOD and the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI. MR. and MRS. SIMPSON had one son, HARRY G. JR., who attended CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL and in 1942 completed the course at the SHATTUCK MILITARY and PREPARATORY SCHOOL at FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA. He then attended the UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI. HARRY G. JR. died in 1968. Mary Lee Simpson, a sister of Harry G. Sr., still resides in Charleston.

(N) *SIMPSON, DR. ABSALOM* (April 27, 1829 - July 23, 1904) was born in BUTLER COUNTY, KENTUCKY. In 1854 he entered the medical department of the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE and graduated in 1856. He came to CHARLESTON in 1858 where he practiced medicine for forty-six years. In 1869 he went into the mercantile business. His first wife was ARABELLA LEE who died in 1860 and left one child, WILLIAM L. SIMPSON. In 1861 he married MRS. REBECCA (SWANK) MCFARLAND. Of this marriage there were six children; JOHN L., MRS. EFFIE RANDOLPH, HENRY L., MRS. F. J. WILKINSON, CORA G. and ALBERT D. He was survived by his wife and children.

JOHN L. had five children, LILA SIMPSON SNOW, LAWRENCE, CHARLES, JOHN and HALLIE WEST.

HENRY L. had a daughter, DAISY QUINN BAUERLE.

(N) *SIMPSON, A. D.* (March 17, 1876 - 1949) was the son of DR. and MRS. A. E. SIMPSON. He married MARY LYNCH \_\_\_\_\_ (May 1, 1889 - June 14, 1971) on June 23, 1909. In 1927 he became superintendent of the public schools of CHARLESTON and continued until 1947. MRS. SIMPSON was the daughter of DR. J. W. and MARTHA ELLEN CLACK LYNCH and was born in CHARLESTON. He was survived by his wife and two daughters, MARY ELLEN (MRS. CLIFTON BANTA) and CATHERINE JANE (MRS. JESSE FARMER) and one sister MRS. F. J. WILKINSON.

(N) *SIMPSON, JOHN L.* (November 26, 1861 - February 13, 1939) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of DR. and MRS. A. E. SIMPSON. He was survived by three sons and a daughter; LAWRENCE, JOHN, CHARLES, and MRS. JEWELL WEST. MRS. THAD SNOW preceded him in death.

(N) *SIMPSON, LAWRENCE A.* (February 1889 - 1966) was the son of JOHN and FRANCES SIMPSON. He was survived by his wife, VERA, two brothers and a sister.

(N) *SLACK, RANDOLPH* ( ? - March 10, 1881) died at WOLF ISLAND. He was a long time resident of that area.

(N) *SLACK, MRS. VICTORIA* ( ? - February 21, 1880) was the wife of SILAS D. SLACK.

(N) *SLAGLE, JENNIE* (November 11, 1857 - 1915?) first married TAYLOR CLARKSON and later J. A. SLAGLE.

(N) *SMALL, MRS. LYCURGUS* ( ? - August 7, 1879) was the daughter of GEORGE WEAKLEY.

(N) *SMITH, DR. ALFRED FRANKLIN* (March 28, 1869 - March 7, 1962) was born near BERTRAND, the son of JAMES WASHINGTON and ALBERTA ENGLISH SMITH. He was an outstanding preacher of the SOUTHERN METHODIST CHURCH and later became editor of the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE of the METHODIST CHURCH SOUTH in ST. LOUIS. He was married twice and had two daughters,



HORTENSE KIDDER and MILDRED LOUD, by his first wife. His second wife was SUSAN ELIZABETH BYRD (November 11, 1871 - July 11, 1955), the daughter of THOMAS HAYWOOD and MARY ELIZABETH (MOORE) BYRD.

(N) SMITH, DAVID ENGLISH (January 29, 1889 - May 5, 1944) was born at FAYETTE, MISSOURI, the son of JAMES WASHINGTON SMITH of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and ALBERTA ENGLISH SMITH. He served in the medical corp all during World War I. He was a resident physician in Charleston before moving to BONNE TERRE around 1924. He was survived by his wife, the former MYRTLE GOODIN, and two sons, DAVID ENGLISH SMITH, JR., ALBERT GOODIN SMITH, and one daughter, MARY ANN.

(N) SMITH, JAMES, SR. "UNCLE JIMMIE" (April 2, 1808 - October 25, 1902) was the oldest resident of the county at the time of his death and his home was used as the first METHODIST CHURCH in MATHEW'S PRAIRIE. On February 9, 1832, he married ELIZABETH SWANK. On March 22, 1849, he married ELIZABETH ANN MOORE (January 14, 1826 - May 10, 1923), a daughter of CHARLES and ELIZABETH (CHALFANT) MOORE. He was survived by his second wife and children, S. S. SMITH, JAMES W. SMITH and MRS. BETTIE BRIDWELL.

(N) SMITH, J. WASHINGTON (April 27, 1842 - 1910) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. On November 15, 1866, he married ALBERTA ENGLISH (1848 - 1913). Their children were: LILIE MAE; ALFRED FRANKLIN; STERLING PRICE; ARTHUR BEVERLY; MILDRED ELIZABETH; SUSAN ALICE; JAMES SIALS; MARY ALBERTA who married MOORE HAW; ELLA; WOODSON PARROTT; DAVID ENGLISH who married MYRTLE GOODIN; and ETHEL LEMAR.

SMITH, SILAS S. ( 1833 - June 25, 1933) was a native of HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, and came to CHARLESTON with his family at the age of five. He married MARY ANN HAW (1834 - 1862) and they had no children. He then married COLUMBIA CLARK and their children were JAMES, ELLA and BETTY. He was married a third time to JENNIE SMITH and their children were FANNIE, MARY, JOSEPH BRIDWELL, and ALBERT WALKER. He farmed until 1880 when he moved to FARMINGTON and then to CAPE GIRARDEAU in 1906. He was ninety-nine at the time of his death and had expressed the desire to pass the century mark, which he missed by five months.

(N) SMITH, STELLA ( ? - May 21, 1922) was the owner of ENTERPRISE-COURIER at the time of her death. She was survived by her husband E. H. SMITH and two sons, E. HAROLD and ROYLAND, and two daughters, MRS. BEN MOORE and MISS LOIS SMITH.



(N) *SMITH, WOODSON* (September 7, 1886 - February 11, 1936) was born at FARMINGTON and came to CHARLESTON around 1901. For several years he was ditch supervisor of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. In 1917 he married AGNES ISHMAEL and they had two sons, WOODSON P. SMITH, JR. and DAVID VERNON SMITH.

(N) *SNOW, THAD* (November 1, 1881 - January 15, 1955) was born at GREENFIELD, INDIANA and in 1904 married BESS JACKSON. They had two children, HAL and PRISCILLA. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1910 after the death of his wife and married LILA SIMPSON (December 3, 1887 - May 17, 1937), daughter of MR. and MRS. J. L. SIMPSON. They had two daughters, FRANCES, who married BOB DELANEY and EMILY who married HARTWELL THOMPSON. He was a farmer, newspaper contributor, and author of the book "FROM MISSOURI". He later moved to VAN BUREN, MISSOURI where he was living at the time of his death.

(N) *STERETT, FRANK FOREST* (February 22, 1862 - 1946) was survived by three children; MRS. CORA STRICKLAND, MRS. ROY MILLER, and CLAUDE STERETT.

(N) *STEWART, JAMES CADE* (July 2, 1873 - April 5, 1933) was born in SMITHLAND, KENTUCKY, and came to CHARLESTON from ST. LOUIS around 1906 to engage in real estate. Prior to coming to CHARLESTON he was a captain of passenger boats on the MISSISSIPPI and TENNESSEE RIVERS. In 1902 he married GENEVIEVE ROLWING of THEBES, ILLINOIS, who died around 1928. Three daughters survived him.

(N) *STORY, A. W.* (April 10, 1858 - February 8, 1943) was born at STURGESS, KENTUCKY, and moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY around 1879. He was survived by one son, E. A. STORY, and one daughter, MRS. MAUDE FINLEY.

(N) *STORY, ERNEST A.* (July 27, 1891 - May 2, 1967) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and was married to the former MARY LOEBE, and they had three sons, ALBERT LOEBE STORY, now deceased, GEORGE G. STORY, and SAM E. STORY. He was president of STORY FARMS, INC., and was the second president of FIRST SECURITY STATE BANK, serving from 1949 to 1967. MR. STORY was elected to the CITY COUNCIL in the 1920's and served as mayor from 1929 to 1931.

(N) *STOTTS, FRANK* ( ? - February 21, 1896) died at SEDALIA, MISSOURI. He was the father of MARION, GEORGE, CHARLEY, and MRS. W. H. LUSK all of CHARLESTON.

(N) *STOTTS, FRANK M.* (June 8, 1885 - September 1940) was the son of MR. and MRS. FRANCIS MARCUS STOTTS. He was survived by his wife, LOUISE, and one daughter, MARY REID (MRS. DAVID DYER).

(N) *STOTTS, MRS. LILA IRWIN* (September 20, 1867 - August 9, 1894) was the wife of CHARLES A. STOTTS. They were married June 25, 1876.

(N) *SULLIVAN, MRS. CATHERINE* ( 1819? - May 29, 1881) was the mother of DAN SULLIVAN and MRS. H. C. STRAYER.

(N) *SUTHERLAND, FRANK R.* ( 1893? - November 27, 1950) was the assistant manager of the MCCUTCHEN THEATER and a lifelong resident of CHARLESTON.

*SWANK, ABRAHAM VAN METER* (1831 - 1872) married SUSAN MOORE (May 10, 1833 - February 16, 1918) and their children were: JULIA, CHARLEY, ELLA, EDGAR F., ALTHEA, JOE, BENJAMIN M., VERNON, and LILLIE.

*SWANK, BENJAMIN J.* (August 1866 - October 1950) married MAHALA MOSLEY in 1891 and their children were: CLYDE E. who married MARY WILKINSON; GLENN M. who married ESTELL MINOR; NOEL who married HALLIE REDMAN; RUEL J. who married EDNA BOUNDS; MARION who married CATHERINE SHELBY; MOORE C. who married JULIE KRIES; and BEN REID who married HELEN SLAGEL.

CLYDE E. who married MARY WILKINSON in November of 1916 had two children, MARIANNA and SALLIE LEE.

*SWANK, JACOB* (1776 - 1853) married ELIZABETH VAN METER (1780 - ? ) and their children were: JOHN (1798 - ? ), LETITIA (1799 - ? ), JACOB (1804 - 1843), WILLIAM (1807 - ? ), ELEANOR (1809 - ? ), CATHERINE ANN (1812 - ? ), ELIZABETH (1813 - 1841), SALLY (1816 - 1847), SILAS (1819 - ? ), and DAVID (1823 - ? ).

*SWANK, JOHN* (1798 - 1866) was born in HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He married SALLY LEE (1803 - 1892) who was born in BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY and their children were: ELIZABETH, WILLIAM PENN, LYDE, REBECCA, MARGARETA and CYRUS.

*SWANK, SILAS* (1819 - 1885) was first married to FANNY THOMPSON and their children were: JIM, MARY, WILLIAM B. and LIZZIE. In 1856 he married MRS. SARAH THOMPSON RANDALL (June 26, 1824 - August 7, 1901) and they had no children. "UNCLE ST" and "AUNT SARAH" lived in the BIG LAKE area.

(N) *SWINGLE, U.A.* (April 8, 1862 - September 14, 1941) was born in STEWARDSON, ILLINOIS, the son of SOLOMON and MARGARET SWINGLE. In 1889 he married CECELIA MAY MILLER. They moved to EAST PRAIRIE in 1906 to establish the E. P. MILLING COMPANY. His wife and two daughters, MRS. A. P. HALBROOK and MRS. J. H. NELSON survived him.

(N) *TARR, DR. G. H.* ( 1869 - ? ) was born in MEADE

COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY when he was two years old. He was educated in CAPE GIRARDEAU, TUETOPULA COLLEGE in ILLINOIS and the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE. He began practice in WOLF ISLAND, then LOUISVILLE and in 1908 back to BELMONT, MISSOURI. He married LEOTA FISHER in 1908.

(M) TAYLOR, DR. EDWARD LEE (January 15, 1915 - ? ) spent his childhood and youth in CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, where he was graduated from high school. During that time he took a very active interest in BOY SCOUT work, being made an EAGLE SCOUT in 1930, with fifty-nine merit badges. He was associated with the CHARLESTON TROOP, the oldest BOY SCOUT troop in MISSOURI. He was born on a farm near VIENNA, ILLINOIS, a son of ERNEST EDWARD LEE and ANNA (HOWELL) TAYLOR. Ambitious to become a physician, he spent three years in the MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, STATE COLLEGE and the UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL SCHOOL for his medical degree. He began his private practice at DYESS COLONY, ARKANSAS, and on October 20, 1939 he moved to STEELE, MISSOURI.

(N) THOMPSON, ELBERT W. (October 2, 1845 - September 1904 or 1905) was born in the TEXAS BEND community. On April 19, 1874, he married MARY JANE STRATTON (December 16, 1853 - April 5, 1941), the daughter of HARTWELL STRATTON. She was survived by four sons; HARTWELL, JULIAN, FRANK and CLAUDE, and four daughters; MRS. EMMA WHITE, MRS. L. C. LESLIE, MRS. ED MARSHALL and MRS. GARNETT WAGGENER.

(N) THOMPSON, MRS. MARTHA A. (nee BRADLEY) (April 7, 1829 - March 23, 1903) was born in CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. At the age of thirteen she married D. W. THOMPSON. They had three children, ELOISE who died in infancy, the late MRS. JAMES MARTIN, and MRS. W. P. HOWLE of CHARLESTON.

(N) THROWER, HENRY J. (March 20, 1854 - July 28, 1906) was born near MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE, a son of REESE and NANCY THROWER. He came to MISSOURI at the age of twelve. He was first married to LUCINDA LITTLE and then to JOSEPHINE IRBY. To this union were born seven children, four of whom survived him, WILLIAM, VERGIL, BENNIE, and CLAIRE.

(N) TIDROW, MRS. CHARLES H. ( 1839? - July 29, 1879) died at BERTRAND.

(N) TRAVIS, DR. JACKSON L. (November 6, 1824 - January 18, 1881) died at his residence on BRATCHER'S LAKE, MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He was born in NORTH CAROLINA and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1853 and located at LUCAS' BEND. He was the oldest practitioner of medicine in the county at the time of his death.



(N) *TRAVIS, MARGARET* (January 14, 1862 - November 1940) was born in NEW ORLEANS but spent practically her entire life in CHARLESTON. She married JAMES TRAVIS who died in 1923. She was the only sister of JOE and SIMON LOEBE.

(N) *TRICKEY, CHARLES R.* (December 29, 1866 - June 1954) was born at NEELY'S LANDING in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the son of THOMAS and ELIZABETH GRAMMAR TRICKEY. He moved to CHARLESTON in 1896 and in 1903 formed a partnership with BEN BREWER in the druggist business. On October 15, 1904, he married EMMA MULFORD (August 15, 1881 - July 4, 1948), daughter of MR. and MRS. MULFORD.

(N) *TYLER, FREDERICK W.* came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1890 as a farm laborer and in a few years owned 780 acres and all of BREWER'S LAKE. His wife died in 1892.

(N) *VAN LEAR, GEORGE W.* (August 12, 1858 - October 1938) married JESSIE FRANK who preceded him in death in 1922. He was survived by one daughter, MRS. EMORY MATTHEWS.

(N) *VERNON, DR. TINSLEY* (October 17, 1836 - January 25, 1884) came to CHARLESTON at an early age from HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. He studied medicine with DR. B. J. MOORE and attended ST. LOUIS MEDICAL COLLEGE in the fall and winter of 1859-60. During the CIVIL WAR he served with the medical department. At the close of the war he returned to CHARLESTON and made his home with his brother-in-law, DR. J. L. HAW. In 1870 he married MARY M. STOTTS of SEDALIA, MISSOURI, who died in 1879. They had two children. In 1881 he married MARY E. ANDERSON of COMMERCE. They had a daughter, MARY.

DR. FRANK STOTTS VERNON (May 24, 1871 - July 1947), son of TINSLEY and MARY STOTTS VERNON graduated from the COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY at ST. LOUIS and practiced in CHARLESTON for fifty-four years. He was survived by his wife, ELLA, and one daughter, MRS. PAUL HUMMEL.

(RN) *WARD, COLONEL MESSER* (1837? - 1884) was born in KENTUCKY, the son of a farmer. After a preliminary course of reading the law he entered LOUISVILLE LAW SCHOOL and graduated with high honor. He then permanently located at CHARLESTON, MISSOURI, and began an active practice of his profession. When the war came he took the side of the SOUTH and joined the command of GEN. JEFF. THOMPSON, and soon became a colonel. He went through the entire war and when peace was made returned to his home in CHARLESTON and resumed his profession. He devoted himself to the cause of education in the county and was one of those instrumental in erecting the CHARLESTON ACADEMY. He was



elected president of the MISSISSIPPI MECHANICAL and AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION. He was a candidate for CONGRESS in 1874 but was defeated because he would not support HORACE GREELEY for president. He married VIRGINIA RANDOL who died in CHARLESTON on February 13, 1881. VIRGINIA STREET was named for her. Their children were: MOLLY, who married ED. SHERMAN; MRS. HARRY HUMBY and GERTIE who never married. He is buried in OAK GROVE CEMETERY.

(N) *WEAKLEY, MRS. GEORGE* ( 1814? - August 7, 1879).

(N) *WELKER, MYRTLE* (October 30, 1888 - October 1926) was the daughter of MILES I. and SUE HOWLETT. She was born in CHARLESTON. She married WEB A. WELKER in 1911 and they had one daughter.

(R) *WHITCOMB, GEORGE* (October 1815 - July 10, 1872) was born in the state of MASSACHUSETTS, and received a fair education, and from early boyhood, had a great desire to read and study. His tastes were in the line of the law, but he was prevented by various circumstances from completing a regular legal course. He left MASSACHUSETTS in the year 1837 and came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. He located at a point on the MISSISSIPPI RIVER now the site of the town of BELMONT, and began to keep a ferry. He had gained a fair knowledge of law, and did some legal practice in the neighboring justice courts. On the organization of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, the COUNTY CLERK, GEORGE S. CRAVENS, appointed MR. WHITCOMB his deputy. He served in the capacity until 1847, when he was elected to succeed CRAVENS as COUNTY and CIRCUIT CLERK. This office he held until January, 1867, a period of twenty years. He was succeeded by J. H. BETHUNE, who had been DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK since 1858. He was a strong worker in behalf of the first railroad ever built through the country, and it was largely through his wisdom, that it was constructed on such favorable conditions. He was an active member of the MASONIC fraternity, and in the year 1862, was elected GRAND MASTER of the GRAND LODGE of MISSOURI. He died at the residence of J. H. BETHUNE, in CHARLESTON, and he had accumulated a large amount of property, being at his death the owner of not less than 15,000 acres of land. He left \$4,000 to a faithful colored boy, who had waited on him during the latter part of his life, and after some minor bequests, willed that the remainder of his property should be equally divided between the daughter of J. H. BETHUNE, and the son of J. G. WHITCOMB, of INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

(D) *WHITTEN, WILLIAM H.* ( 1870 - ? ) was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, MISSOURI, in 1870. His parents were both natives of ILLINOIS, where his mother died when WILLIAM was very young, and his father's death occurred in

August, 1900. He was brought up by his grandfather and an uncle, both of whom lived in southern ILLINOIS. In 1889 he married MISS ROSY GADAR.

(N) *WIGDOR, M. H.* ( ? - December 14, 1942) was born in LITHUANIA and came to CHARLESTON around 1890. He was the father of JULIUS WIGDOR.

(N) *WILKINSON, FERDINAND JACK* (January 13, 1863 - April 17, 1945) was the son of BAILY and JUDITH ANN WILKINSON and was educated in KENTUCKY, but some time later moved to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY. In January of 1892 he married ANNIE LAURIE SIMPSON (February 14, 1871 - June 1953), daughter of DR. ABSALOM SIMPSON. They had five children; ALBERT B., FERDINAND JACK, JR., JUDITH (MRS. E. RILEY BROWN, SR.) and MARY (MRS. CLYDE SWANK).

(N) *WILLIAMS, SILAS "UNCLE SI"* (November 20, 1841 - December 16, 1944) was the oldest citizen of MISSISSIPPI COUNTY in 1944. He was born in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY on the MOORE PLANTATION and was given to MRS. ELLA H. MOORE as a wedding present by her father. After the CIVIL WAR when he was given his freedom, the MOORE family gave him a small house.

(N) *WILSON, JOSEPH T.* ( 1850 - February 1897) came to MISSISSIPPI COUNTY around 1874 and in 1875 was admitted to the bar. He was CITY ATTORNEY of CHARLESTON for one year. He was born in SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI. In April of 1877 he married EMMA KENRICK.

(N) *WYATT, WILLIAM M.* ( 1853? - December 14, 1928) was born near WYATT and the town was later named for him. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, ALFA and ROSA LEE, and two sons, GEORGE and WILLIAM A.

(D) *YOUNG, JOHN A.* ( 1872 - ? ) was the son of JOHN WILLIAM YOUNG, born in WOODBURY, KENTUCKY, in 1843 and SOPHRONIA ORANGE YOUNG born in BUTLER COUNTY, KENTUCKY in 1849. They had several children, namely: GUY; ANNIE (MRS. EUGENE LASSITER); MAUD (MRS. CLAUDE BOWMAN); CARR; MAGGIE (MRS. A. T. LANGSTON); ALPHIA; TULIA; CLYDE; and WILLIE who married PARHAM STONE and lived at DIEHLSTADT.

MR. and MRS. JOHN WILLIAM YOUNG left KENTUCKY in 1875, settling first in MILLERSVILLE, MISSOURI. Here JOHN W. YOUNG ran a blacksmith shop for fourteen years and also had a wagon works. He moved to BERTRAND, MISSOURI, in 1889 and continued the same occupation there.

Until JOHN A. YOUNG was eighteen he assisted his father in the blacksmith shop. He was three years old when his parents came to MISSOURI, so he obtained his education and experience in MISSOURI. From the age of eighteen until he was twenty-one, he clerked in a general store at BERTRAND. Here

he was married on May 18, 1893 to LILLIE BUSH, born May 10, 1874, in BERTRAND. For three years after his marriage JOHN A. YOUNG conducted a drug store in BERTRAND, of which he was the proprietor. He gave this up to accept a position as traveling salesman for the MCCORMICK HARVESTER COMPANY. After seven years of working for this corporation he moved to SIKESTON, MISSOURI. Their first child was HARRY C. YOUNG, born March 15, 1895.

### **ZOOK FAMILY**

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL ZOOK (1849 - 1912) was born in KENTUCKY and died in MISSISSIPPI COUNTY and was the son of JACOB ZOOK. He married ANNIE CAROLINE DOUGHTY (1855 - 1942), daughter of ISAAC WALLACE DOUGHTY. Their children were: MARGARET REBECCA (1871 - ); JACOB WALLACE (1872 - 1958) who married SARAH FRANCES PRIEST; GEORGE W. (1874 - ); BERTIE A. (1876 - ); ORVILLE OLIVER (1881 - ); BOMER E. (1886 - 1953); OTIS A. (1896 - 1966); GEORGE L. (1883 - 1889); ESTHER; and THOMAS B. (1879 - ).

JACOB WALLACE ZOOK (1872 - 1958) married SARAH PRIEST (1872 - 1959) daughter of JOHN WESLEY PRIEST of MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE. Their children were: CHESSIE B. (1892 - ) who married HARRY ISHMAEL; BERTHA MAY (1894 - 1973) who first married JAMES GORDON KENNEDY and second EARL JACOB KENNEDY; LESSIE D. (1897 - 1935) who married BERTIE JACKSON; WILLIE WALLACE (1899 - ); JULIAN ALEXANDER (1907 - ); HETTIE MABEL (1902 - ) who married REINHOLD MARTEN; and ELMO born in 1912 and who died young. (Information supplied by Mrs. Harry Norman, Bloomfield, Missouri, 63825.)

# Biographies to be found in Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri.

Alexander, Scott	Forgey, James G.	Presson, Rev. James J.
Allstun, L. H.	French, Andrew J.	Price, Hiram
Armer, George W.	Fugate, James	Raidt, Basil M.
Armer, Noah W.	Goodin, Jacob S.	Randolph, William N.
Baker, David	Goodin, Franklin S.	Reeves, William H.
Baker, Frank	Goodin, Oliver M.	Rice, Frank B.
Beckwith, Thomas	Gray, James O.	Roberts, William T.
Bibb, Capt. James B.	Green, James S.	Rodney, William
Bird, Thompson	Greer, James A.	Rolwing, George
Bird, Stephen	Greer, Martin Luther	Rowe, Dr. John M.
Bird, John A.	Greer, John L.	Rushing, John
Bogard, A. C.	Griggs, Nathan M.	Rushing, Alfred J.
Bondurant, Dr. A. A.	Grinstead, Dr. W. F.	Rusk, David
Bradley, Elijah F.	Hainesworth, Rev. Henry	Russell, Joseph G.
Brewer, Nelson D.	Hainley, Jacob	Russell, James W.
Bridges, George H.	Hall, Alfred L.	Russell, Hon. Joseph J.
Brown, Francis M.	Harper, James W.	Shelley, Joseph R.
Brown, Judge James M.	Harper, William L.	Sherman, William
Bryant, Morgan W.	Harris, William M.	Sherman, Henry E.
Bryant, George A.	Heggie, John T.	Simpson, Dr. A. E.
Burns, George C.	Hess, Ferdinand J.	Slack, Charles M.
Bush, James L.	Howlett, John L.	Slack, William R.
Chapman, Willis M.	Hubbard, Charles J.	Slack, Loyd F.
Clayton, Solomon S.	Huff, Benjamin	Smith, James
Clarkson, James	Humphreys, William W.	Smith, Isaac N.
Clarkson, Isaac T.	Hurst, Charles F.	Smith, John W.
Coleman, Dr. Thomas J.	Jenkinson, Joseph H.	Smith, James B.
Coleman, Archibald D.	Jordan, Frank A.	Stratton, Dr. Hartwell
Collier, William	Kenrick, George W.	Strickland, Newton T.
Crenshaw, Joseph	Langsdale, Robert	Swank, William B.
Crenshaw, I. Albert	Lee, James A.	Tetwiler, S. G.
Crosswhaite, Francis M.	Lett, John	Thompson, William K.
Daley, Mrs. Frances M.	Lindsay, J. W.	Thompson, Elbert W.
Dalton, Thomas J.	Love, William	Thurman, John B.
Danforth, L. W.	Lynn, John F.	Travis, Dr. Jackson L.
Danforth, A. H.	McElmurry, Judge	Turley, Robert
Davis, Robert N.	Thomas S.	Vogley, Frederick A.
Davis, John T.	McElmurry, Absalom	Vowels, Robert
Dawson, John T.	Marshall, William T.	Waide, Col. Robert
Duncan, Robert W.	Martin, Dr. S. P.	Watkins, Joseph F.
Deal, Col. H. J.	Martin, Joseph F.	White, Jesse K.
Deal, Edwin P.	Martin, George W.	White, Benjamin C.
Deal, Edwin J.	Millar, Mrs. Fannie M.	Whitsell, James W.
Dever, John P.	Millar, John A.	Wilson, Dr. George W.
Farris, John C.	Mitchener, John N.	Yates, Haston
Forbs, Thomas B.	Ogilvie, Elijah, W.	



## APPENDIX D

### COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS

This information was gathered from city and county minute books, the Official Manual of Missouri, and newspapers. Undoubtedly some of the dates are not exact and some officers for certain years are missing because they were not listed in the sources mentioned. The lists do, however, help to show those who served in county and city offices and who thus contributed to the history of Mississippi County. No records were available for East Prairie city officials.

#### *Judges of the County Court*

William Sayres	1845-46	William A. Rice	1862-65
Absalom McElmurry	1845-47	S. R. Allen	1862-65
James M. Overton	1845-47	A. E. Simpson	1863-65
Solomon W. Henson	1846-50	William F. Lee	1865-66
Noah Handy	1840-54	Barnard Banke	1865-58
W. G. Cooley	1847-50	Benjamin M. Dukes	1865-66
H. W. Molder	1850-54	Thomas S. McElmurry	1866-70
J. B. S. Hays	1850-54	James H. Naive	1866-72
William B. Bush	1854-58	A. E. Simpson	1868-69
Felix G. Harrison	1854-58	Benjamin M. Dukes	1869-70
Thomas S. McElmurry	1858-62	James M. Brown	1870-78
J. L. Shelby	1858-60	A. M. Holloway	1870-78
John A. Gardner	1860-62	William L. Shelby	1872-77
William Stratton	1862-63	J. M. Ringo	1877-80
Silas S. Smith	1878-80	Lewis W. Danforth	1907-14
William T. Marshall	1878-86	Tennessee Jackson	1907-12
Jacob S. Goodin	1880-94	David F. Lee	1906-10
Frank A. Jordan	1880-84	Elgin C. Davis	1911-14
George W. Hudson	1884-85	L. B. Presson	1913-22
M. V. Rodney	1885-86	John L. Vaughn	1915-22
William H. Lusk	1886-88	George W. Langsdale	1915-18
Ferd J. Hess	1886-88	L. D. Miller	1919-20
Robert Langsdale	1889-90	Lee Presson	1921-22
John C. Faris	1889-90	Hugh McPheeters	1923-28
William P. Swank	1891-93	A. C. Drinkwater	1923-28
Hal S. Henderson	1891-92	W. R. Hollick	1923-28
Robert A. Barry	1893-96	William C. Bryant	1929-30
Lewis W. Danforth	1895-98	Frank F. Sterrett	1929-32
Frank A. Hatton	1895-1900	William J. Melton	1929-30
William H. Reeves	1897-98	E. G. Gilmore	1931-34
J. W. Downing	1899-1900	Robert L. Fowlkes	1933-34
William T. Marshall	1899-1902	John S. Clevidence	1933-34
Joseph R. Bush	1901-02	William J. Melton	1935-46
Robert F. Davidson	1901-02	J. O. Bebout	1935-36
John A. Bird	1903-06	Edward Johnson	1935-40
Tennessee Jackson	1903-04	H. D. Sutherland	1937-38
John F. Lyon	1903-04	Karl W. Marshall	1939-46
Henry J. Thrower	1905-06	W. C. Bryant	1941-46
J. R. Oliver	1905-06	Miles T. Lee	1947-58
A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.	1947-54	W. H. Winchester, Jr.	1961-

Frank Johnson	1947-50	Richard Burke	1961-64
Wendell Choate	1951-56	W. C. Bryant	1961-64
W. H. Rolwing	1955-58	Gilbert Bryant	1965-70
Clifford E. Vowels	1957-58	Lloyd Hall	1965-
Woodrow J. Simmons	1959-60	Lindsay Hurley	1971-
Robert Wyman Beasley	1959-60	Harry B. Russell	1971-72
Clint Hutcheson	1959-60		

### *Circuit Judges*

John D. Cook	1845-49	inclusive
Harrison Hough	1850-61	

No circuit court was held from May 24, 1861 to November 17, 1862 because of the Civil War.

Mason Grizzell	1862-65	James A. Finch	(appointed
Albert Jackson	1866-68	Oct. 3, 1912 -	November 18, 1912
David L. Hawkins	1869-80	Frank Kelly	1913-40
John D. Foster	1881-1886	James C. McDowell	1941-47
Harry C. O'Bryan	1887-92	L. D. Joslyn	1948-49
Henry C. Riley	1893-1910	R. B. Oliver III	1949-50
Charles B. Farris	1911-	D. W. Gilmore	1951-54
to fall of 1912 when Judge Farris		Marshall Craig	1955-
was elected to the Supreme			
Court and resigned as Circuit			
Judge.			

### *Probate Judges*

James M. Brown	1880-86	George W. Kirk	1925-26
N. J. Ogilvie	1887- ?	Charles R. Love	1927-30
John T. Heggie	1893-94	Seth R. Rowe	1931-32
W. Clark Russell	1895-1904	Ben B. Guthrie	1933-46
Charles R. Love	1905-10	Thomas B. Russell	1947-52
John F. Martin	1911-18	J. Moore Haw	1953-58
J. M. Haw (appointed)	1919-20	Charles Franklin Reeves	1959-62
Lester S. Cain	1921-22	Tom J. Brown, Jr.	1963-
J. B. Sanders	1923-24		

### *Circuit Clerk and Recorder*

Up to 1887 the offices of clerk of the county court, clerk of the circuit court and recorder were combined. In 1887 I. T. Clarkson was elected clerk of the circuit court and ex-officio recorder and the offices remained as such until 1942 at which time the office of recorder was created by reason of the county reaching a population of over 20,000.

George L. Cravens	1845-47	Charles E. Kirkpatrick	1911-18
George Whitcomb	1848-66	F. T. Clarkson	1919-22
J. H. Bethune	1867-82	Oscar I. Oliver	1923-30
William A. Bush	1883-86	Ellis W. Howlett	1931-50
Isaac T. Clarkson	1887-98	Oliver F. Goodin	1951-54
Mark A. Drane	1899-1910	Ellis W. Howlett	1955-

### *Clerk of the County Court*

John Heggie	1886-90	George H. Bridges	1891-94
Enoch D. Bell	1895-98	Ben B. Guthrie	1915-26
John T. Heggie	1899-1906	Thomas W. Gwaltney	1927-34
M. A. Drane	1907-08	E. B. Hearnese	1935-38

Clarence M. Davis	1909-14	Woodrow J. Simmons	1939-54
		Arthur Lee Goodin	1955-

### *County Prosecuting Attorney*

Prior to the year 1871 there appears no record of a Prosecuting Attorney.

George N. Hatcher	1871-74	William G. Lee	1893-94
Morris F. Taylor	1875-77	George S. Elliott	1895-96
Joseph T. Wilson	1878-80	William G. Lee	1897-1900
Joseph J. Russell	1881-84	Charles R. Love	1901-04
George S. Elliott	1885-92	Otis W. Joslyn	1905-08

O. W. Joslyn resigned during the summer of 1908 and J. M. Haw was appointed and served the remainder of 1908 and then took office as the elected prosecuting attorney in 1909.

James Moore Haw	1909-14	William G. Lee	1929-30
Claud S. Hale	1915-16	Frank K. Ashby	1931-34
Frank K. Ashby	1917-18	James Haw	1935-38
J. C. McDowell	1919-24	George B. Bridges	1939-40
Lester S. Cain	1925-28		

George B. Bridges was killed in an automobile accident on October 14, 1940 and L. Danforth Joslyn was appointed for the remainder of 1940.

Marshall Craig	1941-44
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Marshall Craig was inducted into the army on March 31, 1944, and J. M. Haw was appointed by him as acting prosecuting attorney and served until January 1, 1945, at which time T. B. Russell was appointed.

Tom B. Russell	1945-48	Roderic R. Ashby	1957-70
Roderic R. Ashby	1949-54	W. Clifton Banta, Jr.	1971-
Frank Reeves	1955-56		

### *Sheriff*

The offices of Sheriff and Collector were consolidated as one office until the year 1872, at which time they were separated. They were again consolidated in 1878, but in 1886 they were again separated. Some of the following sheriffs were also collectors.

Joseph Dyson	1845-46	Samuel Ogilvie	1879-82
J. D. R. James	1847-48	William M. Harris	1883-84
John Barker	1849-51	Benjamin Huff	1885-88
Jonathan Mills	1852-55	Joshua Beauchamp	1889-90
William F. Myrick	1856-61	Charles A. Goodin	1891-92
No court was held from May 24, 1861 to November 17, 1862, during the Civil War.		Joseph F. Martin	1893-96
		George W. Ashby	1897-1900
		John D. Shelby	1901-04
Charles Atcher	1862-64	Clarence S. DeField	1905-06
L. W. Pritchett	1865-66	George W. Cupp	1907-12
Jacob L. Shelby	1867-68	J. O. King	1913-16
George W. Jackson	1869-71	Howell B. King	1917-20
William P. Swank	1872-76	C. D. Jackson	1921-24
Bird Fugate	1877-78	J. O. King	1925-28
Jesse J. Jackson	1929-32	Walter R. Beck	1945-48
James O. King	1933-36	J. Ernest Scott	1949-60

Walter R. Beck	1937-40
J. Ernest Scott	1941-44

Woodrow J. Simmons	1961-
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### *County Collector*

L. W. Danforth	1872-74
Samuel Ogilvie	1875-82
William A. Fletcher	1883- ?
William M. Harris	? -86
Miles T. Lee	1887-90
E. W. Ogilvie	1891-92
Francis M. Stotts	1893-98
Edwin P. Deal	1899-1902
George W. Ashby	1903-06

Henry S. Cochran	1907-14
Roy D. Strickland	1915-18
Mrs. Cora Strickland	1919-20
(Appointed)	
William A. Wyatt	1921-30
Walter L. Lee	1931-34
E. G. Gilmore	1935-42
W. Moray Gaty	1943-50
Carl E. Wyatt	1951-

### *County Assessor*

David McElmurry	1845-46
Charles F. Keesee	1846-47
George Whitcomb	1847-48
John R. Roberts	1849-50
H. G. Cummings	1851-52
James W. Lee	1853-54
William F. Myrick	1845-55
Thomas P. Chambers	1856-57
George H. Bridges	1887-90
Henry A. Walton	1891-92
Joshua Beauchamp	1893-94
William Holloway	1895-96
James W. Parks	1897-1908
L. D. Steele	1909-12

From 1857 to 1860 the county was assessed by districts.

James H. Bridges	1860-62
George M. Keyser	1863-64
James H. Naive	1865-66
James H. Bridges	1867-70
James M. Brown	1871-72
J. W. Parks	1873-86
Charles W. Hequembourg	1913-16
Roy W. Hough	1917-24
Oscar W. Wise	1925-28
Ward DeField	1929-36
Oscar T. Ashby	1937-40
Ed DeField	1941-

### *County Treasurer*

Arthur R. Newman	1845-48
William Sayres	1849-50
John Sheppard	1851-60
C. C. Kalfus	1861-62
W. F. Lee	1863-64
Thomas S. McElmurry	1865-66
C. P. Cumley	1867-70
Franklin Howlett	1871-72
James L. Moore	1873-80
Joseph M. Ringo	1881-84
E. W. Ogilvie	1885-90

Hartwell Stratton	1891-92
John L. Howlett	1893-94
Edwin P. Deal	1895-98
James Smith, Jr.	1899-1902
Clarence M. Davis	1903-04
Alex R. Boone	1905-12
David F. Lee	1913-16
Frank M. See	1917-18
Alice G. Lee	1919-36
Norma F. Hisey	1937-66
Deema Atteberry	1967-

### *Coroner*

James Fugate	1880-81
T. L. Patterson	1882-83
William P. Swank	1884-88
William P. Howle	1889-
William P. Howle	1905-06
Roy K. Ogilvie	1907-10
William P. Howle	1911-20
M. D. Howle	1921-22
F. S. Vernon	1923-32
Paul Hackney	1933-36

Thomas L. Patterson	? -96
E. J. Rauls	1897-98
Henry S. McElmurry	1898-1900
Frank S. Vernon	1901-04
Frank S. Vernon	1937-40
Travis Shelby	1941-44
John F. Nunnelee	1945-52
Travis Shelby	1953-56
Elgin McMikle	1957-

### *Public Administrator for the County*

A. E. Simpson	1880-84	L. R. Millar	1917-20
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David Baker	1885-94	Ben A. Rolwing	1921-24
W. T. Marshall	1895-96	Edwin J. Deal	1925-28
E. Jerry Deal	1897-1906	Edward J. Burns	1929-30
(None listed)	1907-08	E. Jerry Deal	1931-32
J. P. Barnhill	1909-12	Thomas B. Russell	1933-36
F. M. See	1913-16	None reported after 1936	

### *County Surveyor*

Martin V. Rodney	1880-81	Paul A. Tanner	1921-28
William Wilbur	1881-84	Leonard G. Hogue	1929-32
Joseph G. Russell	1885-86	Paul A. Tanner	1933-38
William Wilbur	1887-88	(None reported)	1939-40
John C. O'Bryan	1889-1900	R. Wyman Beasley	1941-48
Charles S. Reynolds	1901-04	Frank D. Hequembourg,	
John C. O'Bryan	1905-12	Jr.	1949-60
Lucius T. Berthe	1913-16	Willis A. Downs	1961-64
Clyde E. Swank	1917-20	Raymond D. Lee	1965-

### *Highway Engineer for the County*

Harry H. Hudson	1915-16	Howard Pritchett	1949-52
Clyde Swank (Appointed)	1919-20	Harley E. Choate	1953-58
Paul A. Tanner	1921-26	O. D. Harper	1959-66
(None reported)	1927-32	Shelby Dick	1967-70
Paul A. Tanner	1932-36	Charles Perry	1971-72
R. W. Beasley	1937-48	Shelby Dick	1973-

### *Representatives to the Legislature (State)*

William Sayres	1846-50	Paul Byrd Moore	1893-96
Dr. Hardin M. Ward	1851-54	Ferd J. Hess	1897-1902
Dr. B. J. Moore	1855-56	William G. Lee	1903-06
Dr. Hardin M. Ward	1857-58	Edwin P. Deal	1907-12
William A. Keyser	1859-60	A. R. Boone	1913-16
Robert White	1861-62	R. A. Barry	1917-22
Dr. B. J. Moore	1863-64	Carl D. Mitchell	1923-24
Dr. A. E. Simpson	1865-66	Joe H. Moore	1925-28
Robert Waide	1867-70	Robert A. Barry	1929-34
D. A. Edens	1871-72	L. D. Joslyn	1935-38
J. H. Guthrie	1873-76	Daniel O'Bryan	1939-48
Henry J. Deal	1877-80	Kelly Jackson	1949-50
William P. Swank	1881-82	Warren E. Hearnese	1951-60
L. W. Danforth	1883-86	David Rolwing	1961-68
J. J. Russell	1886-92	Frederick W. DeField	1969-

### *Mayor of Charleston*

F. A. Randall	1880-81	R. R. Davis	1948-49
C. W. Hequembourg	1881-83	R. B. Patterson	1949-50
George H. Bridges	1883-84	W. Clifton Banta	1950-51
Mark A. Drane	1884-85	Paul Handy Moore	1951-52
Alfred Orr	1885-87	R. R. Davis	1952-53
Loren DeLine	1887-88	Max Friedman	1953-54
Alfred Orr	1888-92	Charles A. Goodin	1954-55
Lewis W. Danforth	1892-96	James Atteberry	1955-56
James A. Boone	1896-98	Max Friedman	1956-57
Lewis W. Danforth	1898-1900	C. I. Lutz, Jr.	1957-58
Joe F. Martin	1900-02	Carl Layton	1958-59
R. L. Shelby	1902-03	A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.	1959-60
Lewis W. Danforth	1903-06	E. R. Putnam, Jr.	1960-61
W. T. Marshall	1906-10	T. P. Fenton	1961-62

J. W. Putnam	1910-12	E. R. Putnam, Jr.	1962-63
George C. Burns	1912-13	B. G. Knight	1963-64
O. W. Joslyn	1913-17	P. J. Ponder, Jr.	1964-65
T. J. Johns	1917-21	R. B. Logan	1965-66
C. L. Joslyn	1921-28	Charles E. Wright	1966-67
Charles E. Kirkpatrick	1928-29	T. P. Fenton	1967-68
E. A. Story	1929-31	E. Paul Jackson	1968-69
C. W. Reid	1931-33	Joseph W. Layton	1969-70
E. E. Oliver	1933-39	R. Wyman Beasley	1970-71
W. R. McCracken	1939-48	Sam E. Story	1971-72
		Charles R. Williams	1972-73

### *City Clerk of Charleston*

Mark A. Drane	1880-83	Roy D. Strickland	1910-15
William A. Burns	1883-84	E. E. Oliver	1915-19
George W. Martin	1884-85	A. E. O'Hara	1919-20
William A. Burns	1885-86	E. Harold Smith	1920-29
George H. Bridges	1886-87	Ellis W. Howlett	1929-30
Isaac T. Clarkson	1887-88	Oscar I. Oliver	1930-31
John C. Russell	1888-89	O. W. Joslyn (Acting)	1932-33
S. G. Tetwiler	1889-90	Doss B. Lee	1933-38
J. C. Russell	1890-92	J. F. Brown	1938-40
J. Beauchamp	1892-94	T. A. Zilafro	1940-66
Enoch D. Bell	1894-98	Faye Elliott	1966-69
Bailey Wilkinson	1898-99	Louise Cope	1969-
Charles E. Kirkpatrick	1899-1910		

### *City Attorney of Charleston*

James A. Boone	1880-82	W. G. Lee	1896-99
George S. Elliott	1882-83	Charles R. Love	1899-1900
John T. Witham	1883-84	O. W. Joslyn	1900-05
W. N. Randolph	1884-85	J. Moore Haw	1905-09
James A. Boone	1885-86	W. G. Lee	1909-12
Harry J. Cantwell	1886-87	Linn Haw	1912-13
E. Jerry Deal	1887-92	Frank M. See	1913-17
W. G. Lee	1892-94	W. E. Small	1917-21
W. C. Russell	1894-95	O. W. Joslyn	1921-38
George S. Elliott	1895-96	W. E. Small	1938-41
T. B. Russell	1941-47	W. Clifton Banta	1951-
Richard R. Oliver	1947-51		

### *City Treasurer of Charleston*

Sol Rosenstein	1880-93	E. F. Swank	1921-29
Scott Alexander	1893-96	C. L. Joslyn	1929-37
G. H. Bridges	1896-1907	Albert Mattingly	1937- ?
John F. Martin	1907-09	Ralph Boyd	? -56
W. I. Sidwell	1909-15	Robert Hearnese	1956-
S. A. McElmurry	1915-21		

### *Marshall or Chief of Police of Charleston*

E. W. Ogilvie	1880-82	E. G. Elkin	1912-13
J. K. Sigmon	1882-83	A. D. Chase	1913-15
William McGee	1883-84	Ed Davis	1915-21
Edward E. Reeder	1884-85	J. O. King	1921-25
J. E. Golder	1885-86	Ed Davis	1925-26
John F. Hisey	1886-90	Jesse J. Jackson	1926-29
L. LaMontague	1890-92	Owen Cook	1929-33

R. D. Crenshaw	1892-93	H. B. Pottinger	1933-42
E. G. Elkin	1893-95	Frank Sutherland	1942- ?
John F. Hisey	1895-96	J. B. Malone	1950-52
T. S. Crumley	1896-98	Paul G. Long	1952-57
Elmo Frie	1898-1900	Guthrie Hunter	1957-68
E. G. Elkin	1900-06	Dolph Webb	1968-69
Hardy P. Pottinger	1906-12	Spencer Presson	1969-70
Stanley Mungle	1970-72	Bob Ritchie	1972-

### *City Collector of Charleston*

Lloyd A. Smith	1893- ?	Eunice Marshall	1931-33
Elijah Scott	1907-09	Bess Mulkey	1933-53
O. E. Kirkpatrick	1909- ?	Mabel Morris	1953-58
Ollie F. Daniel	1915- ?	Bonnie Uthoff	1958-60
Alice Goodin	1919-21	Mabel Morris	1960-66
Byron Guthrie	1921- ?	Gail B. Davis	1966-
Cora Strickland	1929-31		

### *Assessor for Charleston*

Charles Hequembourg	1909- ?	Ralph Boyd	1949-64
E. P. Cummins	1921- ?	Ed DeField	1964-71
E. Bailey	1929- ?	Wilda DeField	1971-
Elmer O. Penny	1931-49		

### *Police Judge of Charleston*

Fred Browning	1909- ?	J. L. Shelby	1956-72
John D. Shelby	1929- ?	Frank Gillespie	1972-
Charles E. Kirkpatrick	1931-51		

### *Fire Chief of Charleston*

T. W. Dunn	1934- ?	Joe Johnson (Acting)	1968-69
E. R. Lash	1938- ?	Joe Johnson	1969-
Henry Fox	1951-68		

### *Superintendent of Public Works of Charleston*

T. W. Dunn	? -1961	Harley Wright	1968-
Richard Carr	1961-68		

### *Building Inspector of Charleston*

Willis Downs	1970-
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### *City Office Secretary of Charleston*

Louise McFadden	1951- ?	Dianne Day	? -61
Bonnie Uthoff	? -58	Faye Elliott	1961-68
Nina Heppe	1958- ?	Gail B. Davis	1968-

### *City Manager of Charleston*

Clyde E. Swank	1948-60	James Butts	1968-70
F. D. Hequembourg, Jr.	1960-66	Richard A. Martin	1970-
Richard Carr (Acting)	1966-68		

### *Councilmen of Charleston*

- 1800 - C. W. Hequembourg, Louis LaMontague, James K. Sigmon, Louis W. Danforth, John Jones.
- 1881 - Louis LaMontague, George W. Kenrick, David Rusk,

- Louis Danforth, David Black.
- 1882 - Lorenzo D. Owen, Isaac Hisey, James A. Boone, James H. Brown, David Rusk.
- 1883 - Alfred A. Orr, S. G. Rosenstein, Isaac T. Clarkson, Valentine Preuitt, David Black.
- 1884 - Louis LaMontague, Edward P. Deal, Alfred A. Orr, David Baker, Frank G. Sheppard.
- 1885 - Louis LaMontague, James N. Randolph, Edward P. Deal, Charles M. Slack, E. E. Reeder.
- 1886 - R. R. Coulon, Charles M. Slack, David Baker, W. W. Ogilvie, William G. Lee.
- 1887 - David Baker, Joseph Hart, William G. Lee, John C. Russell, Alfred A. Orr.
- 1888 - H. J. Deal, A. H. Danforth, David Baker, J. W. Lindsay, George Jones.
- 1889 - J. W. Lindsay, J. R. Hagan, Ben Huff, F. B. Rice, William G. Lee.
- 1890 - L. W. Danforth, A. McElmurry, Joseph Hart, F. B. Rice, Ben Huff.
- 1891 - Ben Huff, Ab McElmurry, Frank Howlett, Dave Baker, John Rolwing.
- 1892 - John T. Heggie, James K. Sigmon, John F. Martin, John L. Howlett, S. G. Tetwiler.
- 1893 - J. T. Heggie, J. L. Howlett, J. K. Sigmon, George B. Stotts, Joseph Hart, David Baker.
- 1894 - John L. Howlett, John T. Heggie, James K. Sigmon, Joe Hart, George B. Stotts.
- 1895 - John L. Howlett, James K. Sigmon, Joe Hart, Austin Ball, A. C. Bogard.
- 1896 - E. W. Ogilvie, John S. Howlett, Joe Hart, James K. Sigmon, A. C. Bogard, Fred Browning.
- 1897 - A. C. Bogard, Fred Browning, F. J. Wilkinson, Joe Hart, Ben Huff, M. C. Pittman.
- 1898 - Joe Hart, Ben Huff, William Mattingly, R. L. Shelby, M. C. Pittman, R. L. Oliver.
- 1899 - M. C. Pittman, R. L. Oliver, R. L. Shelby, Joe Hart, William I. Mattingly, Ben Huff.
- 1900 - R. L. Shelby, George H. Bridges, M. C. Pittman, Joe Hart, R. L. Oliver, Fred Browning.
- 1901 - R. L. Oliver, J. Beth Cox, A. L. Irvin, M. C. Pittman, George H. Bridges, Joe Hart.
- 1902 - Sam Ogilvie, R. L. Oliver, J. Beth Cox, Price Howlett, F. J. Wilkinson, A. L. Irvin.
- 1903 - W. O. Cape, I. T. Clarkson, Price Howlett, George C. Burns, Sam Ogilvie, F. J. Wilkinson.
- 1904 - George C. Burns, E. J. Deal, J. L. Howlett, Jr., I. T. Clarkson, W. T. Marshall, George W. Langsdale.
- 1905 - J. L. Howlett, Jr., R. L. Oliver, George C. Burns, W. T. Marshall, E. J. Deal, George W. Langsdale.



- 1906 - George C. Burns, R. L. Oliver, E. J. Deal, Charles I. Lutz, J. L. Howlett, Jr., M. B. Harris.
- 1907 - Charles I. Lutz, James A. Boone, George C. Burns, E. J. Deal, J. T. Heggie, W. R. Byrum.
- 1908 - James A. Boone, E. J. Deal, Charles I. Lutz, W. R. Byrum, George C. Burns, J. T. Heggie.
- 1909 - R. C. Danforth, W. C. Bryant, James A. Boone, Paul B. Moore, George C. Burns, T. J. Johns.
- 1910 - Paul B. Moore, George C. Burns, R. L. Heggie, W. C. Bryant, E. E. Bigham, James A. Boone.
- 1911 - Thomas D. White, W. C. Bryant, E. E. Bigham, James A. Boone, George C. Burns, R. L. Heggie.
- 1912 - T. Jackson, Thomas D. White, R. L. Heggie, W. C. Bryant, E. E. Bigham, C. M. Davis.
- 1913 - F. D. Lair, E. E. Bigham, W. G. Lee, Thomas D. White, Luke Anderson, L. W. Danforth, H. M. Hart, James L. Byrd.
- 1914 - F. D. Lair, E. E. Bigham, Thomas D. White, H. M. Hart, James L. Byrd, F. J. Wilkinson, Tom Ford, W. G. Lee.
- 1915 - F. J. Wilkinson, Tom Ford, H. M. Hart, J. L. Byrd, Leonard Howlett, G. N. Sille, Gus Martin, Sam Cavitt.
- 1916 - F. J. Wilkinson, J. L. Byrd, Gus Martin, Sam Cavitt, L. Howlett, Ed Bingham, M. E. Heck, Ed Presson.
- 1917 - F. J. Wilkinson, T. J. Brown, H. M. Hart, Sam Cavitt, Ed Bingham, M. E. Hequembourg, Gus Martin, Ed Presson.
- 1918 - F. J. Wilkinson, Clarence Johnson, Sam Cavitt, H. M. Hart, G. U. Shelby, W. C. Bryant, T. J. Brown, R. L. Shelby.
- 1919 - F. J. Wilkinson, Clarence Johnson, C. L. Joslyn, George U. Shelby, H. M. Hart, Sam Cavitt, R. L. Shelby, W. C. Bryant.
- 1920 - R. L. Shelby, C. L. Joslyn, G. W. Gwaltney, H. M. Hart, Ray W. Gutzwiler, Sam Cavitt, E. C. Eldracker, O. A. Crenshaw.
- 1921 - E. A. Story, E. J. Deal, Jr., J. P. Heggie, T. M. Latimer, E. C. Eldracker, Sam Cavitt, A. J. Drinkwater, Ray W. Gutzwiler.
- 1922 - E. J. Deal, Jr., E. A. Story, J. P. Heggie, J. W. Rhine, T. M. Latimer, H. T. Bryant, Sam Cavitt, E. C. Eldracker.
- 1923 - E. A. Story, E. J. Deal, Jr., J. W. Rhine, J. P. Heggie, T. M. Latimer, C. H. Stanfill, Sam Cavitt, H. T. Bryant.
- 1924 - E. J. Deal, Jr., E. A. Story, J. P. Heggie, C. E. Swank, T. M. Latimer, H. T. Bryant, Sam Cavitt, C. H. Stanfill.
- 1925 - E. J. Deal, Jr., E. A. Story, J. P. Heggie, C. E. Swank, H. T. Bryant, C. H. Stanfill, T. M. Latimer, Sam Cavitt.
- 1926 - E. J. Deal, Jr., E. A. Story, G. C. Sutherlin, H. T. Bryant, J. P. Heggie, C. H. Stanfill, O. C. Burroughs, John A. Bird.

- 1927 - E. A. Story, E. J. Deal, Jr., H. T. Bryant, G. C. Sutherlin, John A. Bird, J. P. Heggie, Tom D. White, O. C. Burroughs.
- 1928 - C. W. Reid, Leonard Howlett, H. T. Bryant, G. C. Sutherlin, John A. Bird, Frank Cornell, John Wallace, Tom D. White.
- 1929 - E. J. Deal, Jr., F. D. Lair, Jr., W. R. Griffith, Ralph Carr, Paul H. Teal, C. W. Reid, H. T. Bryant, Henry Brasher.
- 1930 - C. W. Reid, H. T. Bryant, Frank Lair, Jr., E. J. Deal, Jr., George Cox, Ralph Carr, Henry Brasher, W. R. Griffith.
- 1931 - Charles Lutz, Charles Stanfill, L. F. May, T. Jackson, H. T. Bryant, Henry A. Brasher, George Cox.
- 1932 - C. I. Lutz, H. H. Cornwall, H. T. Bryant, C. H. Stanfill, J. P. Heggie, T. Jackson, H. A. Brasher, George A. Cox.
- 1933 - C. I. Lutz, C. H. Stanfill, Frank Brown, T. Jackson, H. H. Cornwall, George A. Cox, H. T. Bryant, H. A. Brasher.
- 1934 - C. I. Lutz, H. H. Cornwall, H. T. Bryant, C. H. Stanfill, Frank Brown, H. A. Brasher, George A. Cox, T. Jackson.
- 1935 - C. I. Lutz, C. H. Stanfill, Frank Brown, H. A. Buckner, H. H. Cornwall, H. T. Bryant, H. A. Brasher, George A. Cox.
- 1936 - H. H. Cornwall, H. T. Bryant, H. A. Brasher, George A. Cox, Frank Brown, H. A. Buckner, C. H. Stanfill.
- 1937 - C. I. Lutz, H. H. Cornwall, C. H. Stanfill, H. A. Brasher, Frank Brown, H. A. Buckner, George A. Cox, H. T. Bryant.
- 1938 - H. T. Bryant, H. A. Buckner, Frank Brown, Ralph Carson, George A. Cox, Raymond Logan, C. I. Lutz, C. H. Stanfill.
- 1939 - H. T. Bryant, Ralph Carson, R. C. Logan, C. H. Stanfill, Tom Bird, R. R. Davis, Tom White, Ralph Carr.
- 1940 - A. R. Telker, Ralph Boyd, Ralph Carson, R. R. Davis, C. H. Stanfill, J. T. Bird, Ralph Carr, Tom White.
- 1941 - Ralph Boyd, A. R. Telker, Ralph Carson, R. R. Davis, C. H. Stanfill, Frank Brown, N. F. Sitzes, Tom D. White.
- 1942 - Ralph Carr, N. F. Sitzes, Frank Brown, C. H. Stanfill, H. D. Ficklin, Ralph Carson, Vernon Brooks, Ralph Boyd.
- 1943 - Ralph Carr, N. F. Sitzes, Henry Brasher, O. T. Dalton, H. D. Ficklin, Ralph Carson, Vernon Brooks, Ralph Boyd.
- 1944 - C. H. Stanfill, N. F. Sitzes, Henry Brasher, O. T. Dalton, H. D. Ficklin, Ralph Carson, Joe Harvey, Hubert A. Buckner.
- 1945 - C. H. Stanfill, N. F. Sitzes, Henry Brasher, O. T. Dalton, H. D. Ficklin, Ralph Carson, Joe Harvey, H. A. Buckner.
- 1946 - O. O. Thompson, N. F. Sitzes, Henry Brasher, O. T. Dalton, H. D. Ficklin, Robert Farmer, Joe Harvey, Hardy Pottinger, Jr.

- 1947 - O. O. Thompson, N. F. Sitzes, Henry Brasher, O. T. Dalton, H. D. Ficklin, J. R. Farmer, Joe Harvey, H. J. Pottinger, Jr.
- 1948 - Paul Handy Moore, R. B. Patterson, Oliver French, W. Clifton Banta.
- 1949 - Paul Handy Moore, W. Clifton Banta, Oliver French, R. R. Davis.
- 1950 - R. G. Waggener, Paul Handy Moore, Oliver French, R. R. Davis.
- 1951 - R. G. Waggener, Oliver French, Max Friedman, R. R. Davis.
- 1952 - Max Friedman, James Atteberry, R. G. Waggener, Charles Goodin.
- 1953 - Frank Bihr, James Atteberry, Charles Goodin, Grinstead Brewer.
- 1954 - James Atteberry, Max Friedman, Grinstead Brewer, Frank Bihr.
- 1955 - Grinstead Brewer, Charles A. Goodin, Frank Bihr, Max Friedman.
- 1956 - James Atteberry, Charles A. Goodin, Carl Layton, C. I. Lutz.
- 1957 - James Atteberry, Charles A. Goodin, Carl Layton, A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.
- 1958 - E. R. Putnam, Jr., Phillip Barkett, E. I. Lutz, Jr., A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.
- 1959 - E. R. Putnam, Jr., T. P. Fenton, Phillip J. Barkett, George Staples.
- 1960 - A. J. Drinkwater, Jr., Dr. T. P. Fenton, Marion Waggener, George Staples, Jr.
- 1961 - E. R. Putnam, Jr., George Staples, Jr., H. L. Heckman, A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.
- 1962 - B. G. Knight, H. L. Heckman, P. J. Ponder, A. J. Drinkwater, Jr.
- 1963 - E. R. Putnam, H. L. Heckman, P. J. Ponder, W. H. Winchester.
- 1964 - William G. Knight, Charles E. Wright, R. B. Logan, W. H. Winchester.
- 1965 - Charles Wright, J. M. Cullison, William G. Knight, P. J. Ponder, Jr.
- 1966 - William G. Knight, P. J. Ponder, Jr., R. B. Logan, Jr., Dr. T. P. Fenton.
- 1967 - E. Paul Jackson, P. J. Ponder, Jr., William G. Knight, Joe Willis Layton.
- 1968 - Joe Willis Layton, T. P. Fenton, Wyman Beasley, Robert Yates.
- 1969 - Joe Willis Layton, R. Wyman Beasley, Sam E. Story, Robert T. Yates.
- 1970 - T. P. Fenton, Sam E. Story, R. Wyman Beasley, Robert T. Yates.

- 1971 - R. Wyman Beasley, Dr. T. P. Fenton, Charles R. Williams, Sam E. Story, Dr. Lowell Nicholas.  
 1972 - R. W. Beasley, Dr. Lowell Nicholas, Dr. T. P. Fenton, Sam E. Story.

### *School Commissioners*

J. J. Russell	? -79	E. W. White	1893-94
W. S. Cochran	1880-82	A. R. Boone	1895-98
C. W. Hequembourg	1882-84	A. D. simpson	1899-1902
George S. Elliott	1884-88	J. J. Boone	1903-06
J. R. Oliver	1888- ?		

### *Superintendent of County Schools*

Clara A. Graham	1906-27	
Ruby H. Thompson	1927-35	
J. Abner Beck	1935-	Until the office was abolished on June 30, 1967.



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